三国志 41

関羽の不覚

横山光輝

希望コミックス 124

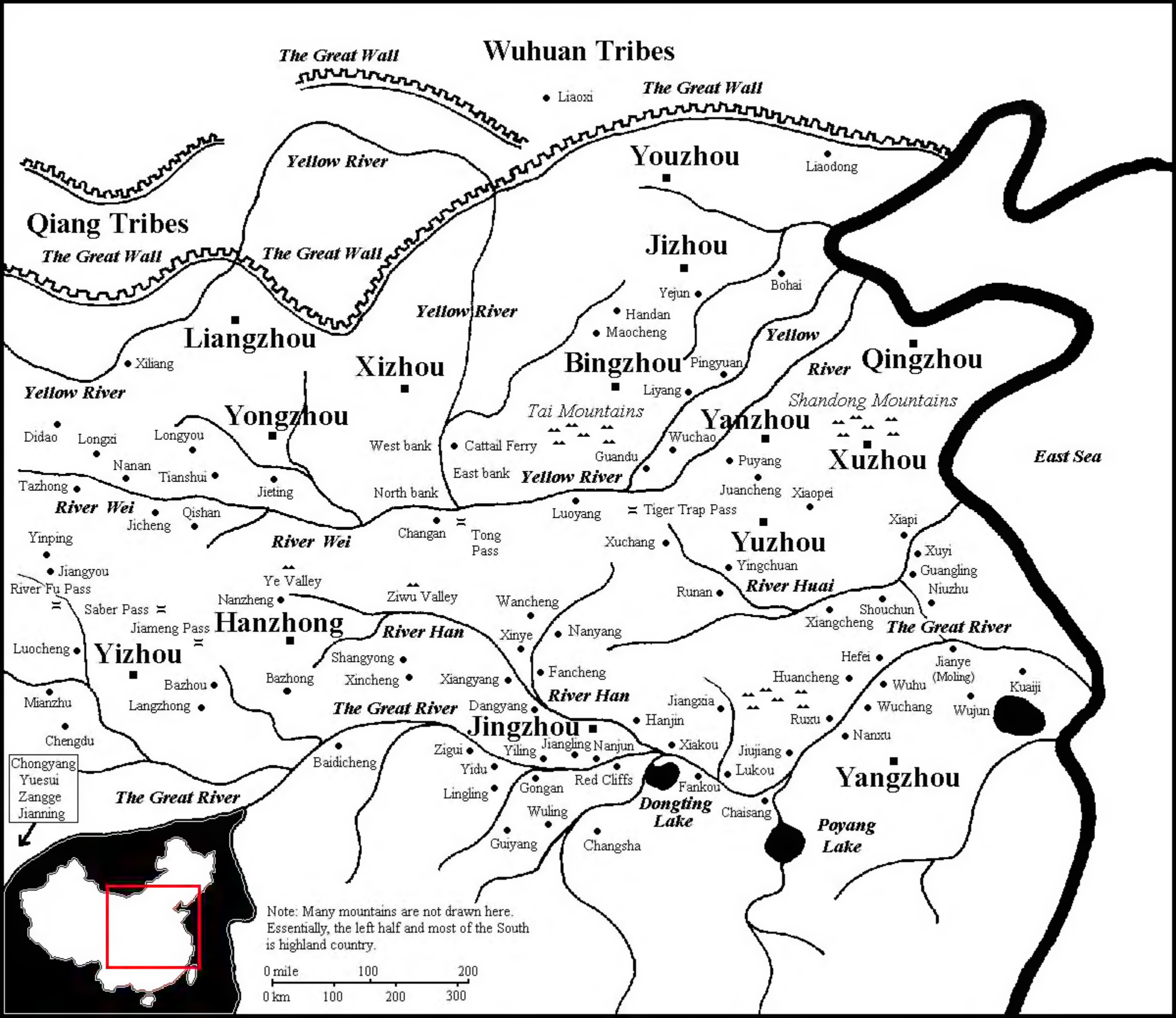
SANGOKUSHI

41

GUAN YU'S OVERSIGHT

YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU

GUAN YU YUNCHANG


Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

MAJOR CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI

CAI MAO:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU BIAO, WHO BECAME THE SUPREME ADMIRAL OF WEI'S NAVY WHEN JINGZHOU SURRENDERED TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 25, HE IS FRAMED BY ZHOU YU'S PLOT AND THUS EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

CAO CAO MENGDE:
THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. HAVING BECOME THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, HE HAS RELEGATED EMPEROR XIAN AS A MERE PUPPET RULER.

CAO REN:
YOUNGER COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL.

CAO REN:
COUSIN OF CAO CAO AND NOW HIS LOYAL GENERAL. PORTRAYED AS BRAVE BUT HOT-TEMPERED IN THE STORY.

CHENG GONG:
A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH HIM AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HOWEVER, HE LATER DEFECTS TO LU BU AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR. IN VOLUME 14, HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH LU BU.

CHENG YU:
IMPORTANT AND LOYAL STRATEGIST SERVING CAO CAO.

CHEN DENG:
THE SON OF CHEN GUI AND FORMERLY TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU'S SUBORDINATE. HE AND HIS FATHER SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL.

CHEN GUI:
FATHER OF CHEN DENG WHO SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL. DESPITE SECRETLY WORKING TOGETHER WITH LIU BEI AGAINST CAO CAO, CAO CAO SPARES HIS LIFE AND ALLOWS HIM TO CONTINUE LIVING IN XUZHOU.

DIAN WEI:
CAO CAO'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD, RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS ALSO KNOWN BY THE NICKNAME, "E LAI," IN REFERENCE TO THE GENERAL OF THE SAME NAME WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU OF SHANG. IN VOLUME 12, HE WAS KILLED DURING ZHANG XIU'S PLOT TO KILL CAO CAO.

DIAO CHAN:
A SLAVE GIRL OF WANG YUN, WHO RAISED HER AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO BY HAVING HER SEDUCE BOTH MEN. IN VOLUME 8, SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL.

DONG CHENG:
ELDER STATESMAN OF HAN WHO IS EMPEROR XIAN'S CONFIDANT. EMPEROR XIAN SECRETELY ASKS HIM TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO, WHO NOW RULES THE IMPERIAL COURT AS CHANCELLOR. IN VOLUME 17, HE IS EXECUTED AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION PLOT IS FOUND OUT BY CAO CAO.

DONG ZHUO:
GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZED CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATED HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, BECOMING AN INFAMOUS TYRANT. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.

EMPRESS HE:
ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS AND SHE ROSE TO BECOME THE EMPRESS, UTILIZING RUTHLESS MEANS. HOWEVER, SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER AND KILLED BY DONG ZHUO WHEN HE CAME TO POWER.

FA ZHENG:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG, BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI DURING HIS CONQUEST OF SHU. HE IS ONE OF LIU BEI'S KEY STRATEGISTS.

GAN NING:
FORMER-PIRATE WHO IS NOW A FIRECE GENERAL OF WU.

GONGSUN ZAN:
GOVERNOR OF BEIPING, WHO WAGES WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO FOR KILLING HIS YOUNG BROTHER. IN VOLUME 15, YUAN SHAO'S ARMY CONQUERS BEIPING, CAUSING GONGSUN ZAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

GUAN PING:
GUAN YU'S ADOPTED SON AS OF VOLUME 19.

GUAN YU YUNCHANG:
SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. HE IS AS FIERCE AS GUAN YU BUT IS MORE RESTRAINED AND CALM IN HIS MANNERISMS.

GUO JIA:
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO CAO CAO. HE DIES FROM ILLNESS DURING CAO CAO'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE YUAN FAMILY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

HE JIN:
ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER ROSE TO BECOME EMPRESS HE. HE IS KILLED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS DURING THEIR POWER STRUGGLE IN VOLUME 3.

HUANG ZHONG:
AN ELDERLY WARRIOR GENERAL RENOWNED ESPECIALLY FOR HIS SKILL WITH THE BOW. FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT SINCE THE END OF V28, HE NOW SERVES LIU BEI.

HUANG GAI:
LOYAL GENERAL OF WU, WHOSE FAMILY HAS SERVED THE SUN FAMILY FOR THREE GENERATIONS.

JIANG QIN:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI, BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR SUN CE'S FATHER, SUN JIAN.

LI DIAN:
SCHOLARLY GENERAL UNDER THE SERVICE OF CAO CAO.

LING TONG:
FORMIDABLE GENERAL OF WU. HE BEARS A GRUDGE AGAINST GAN NING FOR KILLING HIS FATHER BACK WHEN GAN NING WAS NOT A WU OFFICER (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

JIA XU:
FORMER STRATEGIST OF ZHANG XIU, WHO PLOTTED A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CAO CAO, WHICH LEFT DIAN WEI DEAD. AS OF VOLUME 16, HE HAS DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR.

LI RU:
CUNNING ADVISOR TO DONG ZHUO. WITH HIS ADVICE, DONG ZHUO FIRMLY SECURES HIS SEAT AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED ALONG WITH DONG ZHUO WHEN LU BU BETRAYS THEM.

LIU BIAO:
THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU. HE PASSES AWAY DUE TO SICKNESS IN VOLUME 22 AND THE CONSEQUENT SUCCESSION CRISIS ALLOWS CAO CAO TO TAKE OVER JINGZHOU.

LIU BEI XUANDE:
THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. A KIND AND VIRTUOUS MAN, WHO CLAIMS DESCENT FROM EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI.

LIU FENG:
LIU BEI'S ADOPTED SON. ORIGINALLY THE NEPHEW OF LIU MI, HE WAS ADOPTED UPON FIRST SIGHT BY LIU BEI WHO TOOK A LIKING TO HIM IN VOLUME 21.

LIU QI:
ELDEST SON OF LIU BIAO WHO TEMPORARILY LOSES HIS INHERITANCE OF JINGZHOU DUE TO CAI MAO'S PLOT. IN VOLUME 29, HE PASSES AWAY FROM ILLNESS AND THE RIGHTFUL OWNERSHIP OF JINGZHOU CONTINUES TO BE DEBATED BETWEEN SUN QUAN AND LIU BEI.

LIU ZHANG:
INCOMPETENT RULER OF SHU (ALTERNATIVE NAME FOR YIZHOU). HE SEEKS LIU BEI'S HELP TO FEND OFF ZHANG LU, BUT RELATIONS SOON SOUR AND LIU BEI USURPS HIS RULE OVER SHU. AS OF VOLUME 35, HE IS EXILED TO JINGZHOU.

LU BU:
ALTHOUGH REPUTED TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR, HE IS HOT-HEADED AND RARELY HEEDS WISE ADVICE. IN VOLUME 14, HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS SUBORDINATES, AND EXECUTED BY CAO CAO.

LU MENG:
FIERCE GENERAL OF WU, WHO HAS TAKEN OVER LU SU'S FORCES SINCE HIS PASSING.

LU SU:
IMPORTANT MILITARY GENERAL AND ADVISOR OF WU.

MA CHAO:
A FIERCE WARRIOR WHO SEEKS TO AVENGE HIS FATHER MA TENG'S DEATH AT CAO CAO'S HANDS. IN VOLUME 35, HE ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE AND BECOMES ONE OF HIS MOST VALUABLE GENERALS.

MA DAI:
A NEPHEW OF MA CHAO WHO ENTERS LIU BEI'S SERVICE ALONGSIDE HIS UNCLE.

MA LIANG:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS. HE IS THE FOURTH YOUNGEST OF THE FIVE MA BROTHERS, AND IS NOTED FOR HIS INTELLECT AND WHITE EYEBROWS.

MA TENG:
GOVERNOR OF XILIANG AND FATHER OF MA CHAO, WHO SIGNED THE BLOOD-PLEDGE TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 30, HE IS EXECUTED FOR A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT OF CAO CAO.

MENG DA:
FORMER SUBJECT OF LIU ZHANG WHO DEFECTS TO LIU BEI, ALONG WITH HIS GOOD FRIENDS ZHANG SONG AND FA ZHENG.

MI ZHU:
ONE OF LIU BEI'S ADVISORS.

PANG DE:
FIERCE GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED MA TENG AND THEN MA CHAO. IN VOLUME 36, HE DEFECTS TO CAO CAO'S SERVICE DUE TO A TROUBLED RELATIONSHIP WITH ZHANG LU, THE LORD OF HANZHONG.

PANG TONG SHIYUAN:
NICKNAMED THE YOUNG PHOENIX (FENGCHU), HE IS A MASTERFUL STRATEGIST SAID TO BE ZHUGE LIANG'S EQUAL. AFTER ENTERING LIU BEI'S SERVICE, HE TRAGICALLY MET AN EARLY DEATH IN SHU WHEN AMBUSHED BY ZHANG REN IN VOLUME 34.

SHUI JING:
HIS REAL NAME IS SIMA HUI BUT HE IS MORE COMMONLY KNOWN BY HIS TAOIST NAME, SHUI JING (MEANING WATER MIRROR). HE IS THE TEACHER OF ZHUGE LIANG, PANG TONG, AND XU SHU.

SUN CE:
ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN, WHO TURNS THE SUN FAMILY'S FORTUNE AROUND WITH HIS CONQUEST OF THE SOUTHLANDS. IN VOLUME 19, A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AND CONFLICT WITH YU JI CAUSES HIS BODY AND MENTAL HEALTH TO WEAKEN. HE SUCCUMBS TO DEATH SHORTLY AFTER.

SUN JIAN:
THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. HOWEVER, HIS ALLIES LIU BIAO AND YUAN SHAO TO TURN ON HIM WHEN HE TRIES TO KEEP THE IMPERIAL SEAL FOR HIMSELF. IN VOLUME 7, HE IS KILLED IN BATTLE AGAINST YUAN SHAO.

SUN QIAN:
TRUSTED ADVISOR TO LIU BEI. (HIS ROLE IS MUCH SMALLER IN SANGOKUSHI COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL NOVEL.)

SUN QUAN:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE AND THE CURRENT RULER OF WU, THE SOUTHLANDS OF CHINA.

TAISHI CI:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU YAO BUT DEFECTED TO SUN CE IN VOLUME 11. DURING THE BATTLE OF HEFEI (VOL. 29), HE FALLS PREY TO ZHANG LIAO'S PLAN AND IS KILLED IN BATTLE.

TAO QIAN:
THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY INVOKES CAO CAO'S WRATH WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLS CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG. UPON HIS DEATH, HE BEQUEATHS XUZHOU TO LIU BEI.

THE TEN ATTENDANTS:
A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY WERE KILLED DURING THE POWER STRUGGLE WITH HE JIN IN VOLUME 4.

WANG YUN:
THE MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN THE IMPERIAL COURT. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL USING DIAO CHAN IN VOLUME 8. HOWEVER, HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

WEI YAN:
GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED LIU BIAO AND HAN XUAN BUT HAS DEFECTED TO LIU BEI ALONG WITH HUANG ZHONG IN VOLUME 28.

WEN CHOU:
HE AND YANG LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 18, HE IS AMBUSHED BY CAO CAO'S ARMY AND KILLED BY GUAN YU.

XIAHOU DUN:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. HE LOST HIS LEFT EYE DURING A BATTLE AGAINST LU BU'S ARMY IN VOLUME 13.

XU CHU:
TRUSTED BODYGUARD OF CAO CAO. ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HE WAS RECRUITED BY CAO CAO WHO WAS IMPRESSED AFTER SEEING XU CHU'S DUEL WITH DIAN WEI.

XU SHU (SHAN FU):
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST WHO STUDIED UNDER SHUI JING. AFTER A BRIEF STINT OF SERVICE TO LIU BEI, HE IS TRICKED INTO COMING TO XUCHANG AND SERVING CAO CAO (VOLUME 21).

XUN YU:
TALENTED ADVISOR TO CA CAO.

XU HUANG:
CALM AND COLLECTED GENERAL UNDER SERVICE TO CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.

YAN LIANG:
HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 17, HE WAS KILLED BY GUAN YU WHILE FIGHTING CAO CAO'S ARMY AT BAIMA.

YAN YAN:
FORMER GENERAL OF LIU ZHANG BUT DEFECTED TO LIU BEI AFTER HIS CAPTURE AT ZHANG FEI'S HANDS IN VOLUME 34. HE IS NOTED FOR HIS ENERGY DESPITE HIS OLD AGE.

YU JIN:
GENERAL SERVING CAO CAO. CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE TOP GENERALS OF WEI BY CHEN SHOU, AUTHOR OF RECORDS OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.

YUAN SHAO:
OLDER BROTHER OF YUAN SHU AND THE GOVERNOR OF JIZHOU. AFTER MANY YEARS OF WARRING AGAINST CAO CAO FOR CONTROL OF NORTHERN CHINA, HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE DEFEATED.

YUAN SHU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. AFTER RECEIVING THE IMPERIAL SEAL FROM SUN CE, HE DECLARES HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR OF ZHONG DYNASTY. IN VOLUME 15, HE DIES OF THIRST AFTER BEING ON THE RUN FROM LIU BEI AND CAO CAO'S ARMIES.

ZHANG FEI YIDE:
A FIRECE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU.

ZHANG LIAO:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S TOP GENERALS. HE WAS FORMERLY LU BU'S SUBORDINATE BUT DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AFTER THE FORMER'S EXECUTION.

ZHANG LU:
THE LEADER OF THE CELESTIAL MASTERS TAOIST MOVEMENT, AND THE RULER OF HANZHONG. IN VOLUME 36, CAO CAO CONQUERS HANZHONG BUT SPARES ZHANG LU.

ZHANG REN:
ONE OF SHU'S MOST CAPABLE GENERALS WHO PLANNED THE AMBUSH THAT KILLED PANG TONG. HE REFUSED TO SERVE LIU BEI UNLIKE MANY OF HIS COMRADES AND WAS THUS EXECUTED WHEN FINALLY CAPTURED AT THE HANDS OF ZHUGE LIANG (VOLUME 35).

ZHANG SONG:
AN ADVISOR TO LIU ZHANG WHO, UPON FAILING TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN CAO CAO AND LIU ZHANG, SOUGHT LIU BEI'S SUPPORT AND SWITCHED HIS ALLEGIANCE. IN VOLUME 34, HE IS EXECUTED WHEN HIS BROTHER REPORTS HIS BETRAYAL TO LIU ZHANG.

ZHANG XIU:
LORD OF WANCHENG WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL CAO CAO DURING THE BATTLE OF WANCHENG IN VOLUME 12. AFTER YEARS OF CONFLICT AGAINST CAO CAO, HE FINALLY DECIDES TO DEFECT TO CAO CAO IN VOLUME 16.

ZHAO YUN ZILONG:
A FORMER SUBJECT OF YUAN SHAO BUT LATER DEFECTED TO SERVE GONGSUN ZAN. AFTER GONGSUN ZAN'S DEATH, HE BECOMES ONE OF LIU BEI'S MOST TRUSTED GENERALS.

ZHOU TAI:
GENERAL OF WU. FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN.

ZHANG ZHAO:
ELDER STATESMAN AND SUN QUAN'S TRUSTED ADVISOR. HE ORIGINALLY ENTERED SUN CE'S SERVICE ALONG WITH ZHANG HONG, WITH WHOM HE WAS REFERRED TO AS THE "TWO ZHANGS."

ZHOU CANG:
FORMERLY A YELLOW TURBAN, HE MEETS GUAN YU IN VOLUME 18 AND BECOMES HIS SUBORDINATE.

ZHOU YU GONGJIN:
SWORN BROTHER OF SUN CE, AND ONE OF WU'S TOP MINDS, SERVING AS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DURING THE BATTLE OF THE RED CLIFFS. HE RECEIVES A CRITICAL ARROW-WOUND DURING HIS NANJUN CAMPAIGN (VOL. 27) WHICH HE NEVER FULLY RECOVERS FROM, LEADING TO HIS TRAGIC EARLY DEATH IN VOLUME 30.

ZHUGE LIANG KONGMING:
MASTERFUL STRATEGIST AND FORMER STUDENT OF SHUI JING. IN VOLUME 21, HE YIELDS TO LIU BEI'S PERSISTENCE AND DECIDES TO BECOME HIS SUBJECT.

SANGOKUSHI (ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS)

三国志

VOLUME 41
GUAN YU'S OVERSIGHT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELL-LAID PLAN 7
HOLDING OFF PURSUIT 44
STINGING DEFEAT 59
TU SHIREN AND MI FANG 77
RAIN STORM 91
CAPTURE OF JINGZHOU 108
GUAN YU AND LU XUN 117
DELIBERATION AT JIANYE 138
DOCTOR AND PATIENT 168
DEATH GROUND 183

（月刊『コミックトム』掲載）

DEATH GROUND

A LAND WAR?

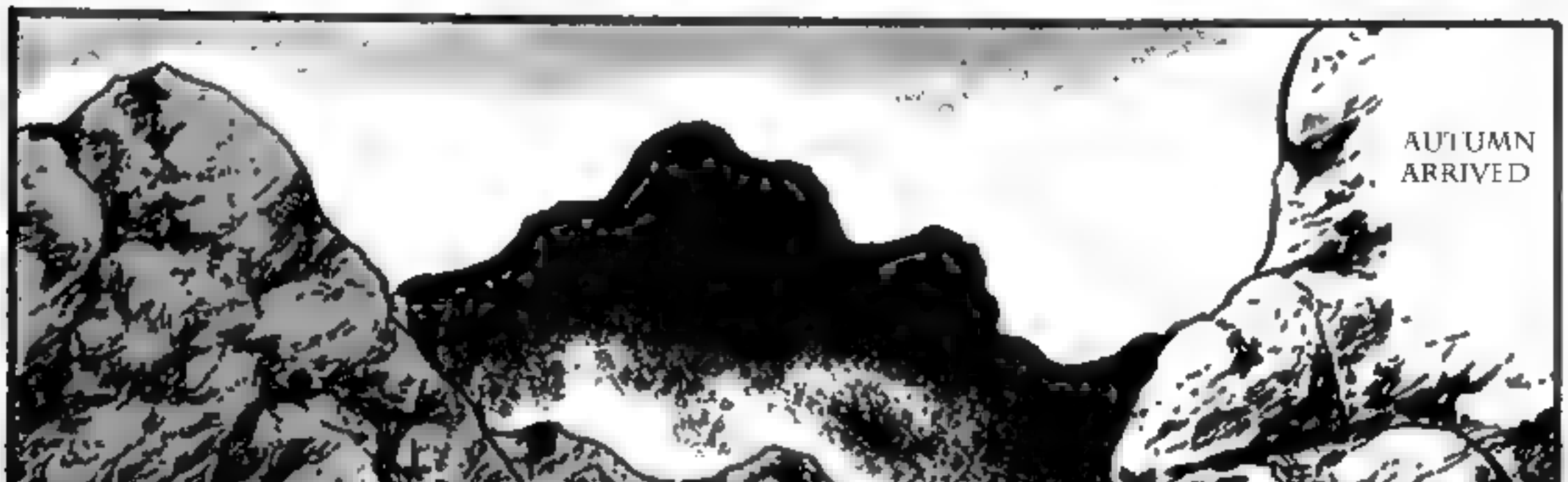
FATHER, I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE BUILDING BOATS WHEN WE'RE WAGING A LAND WAR.

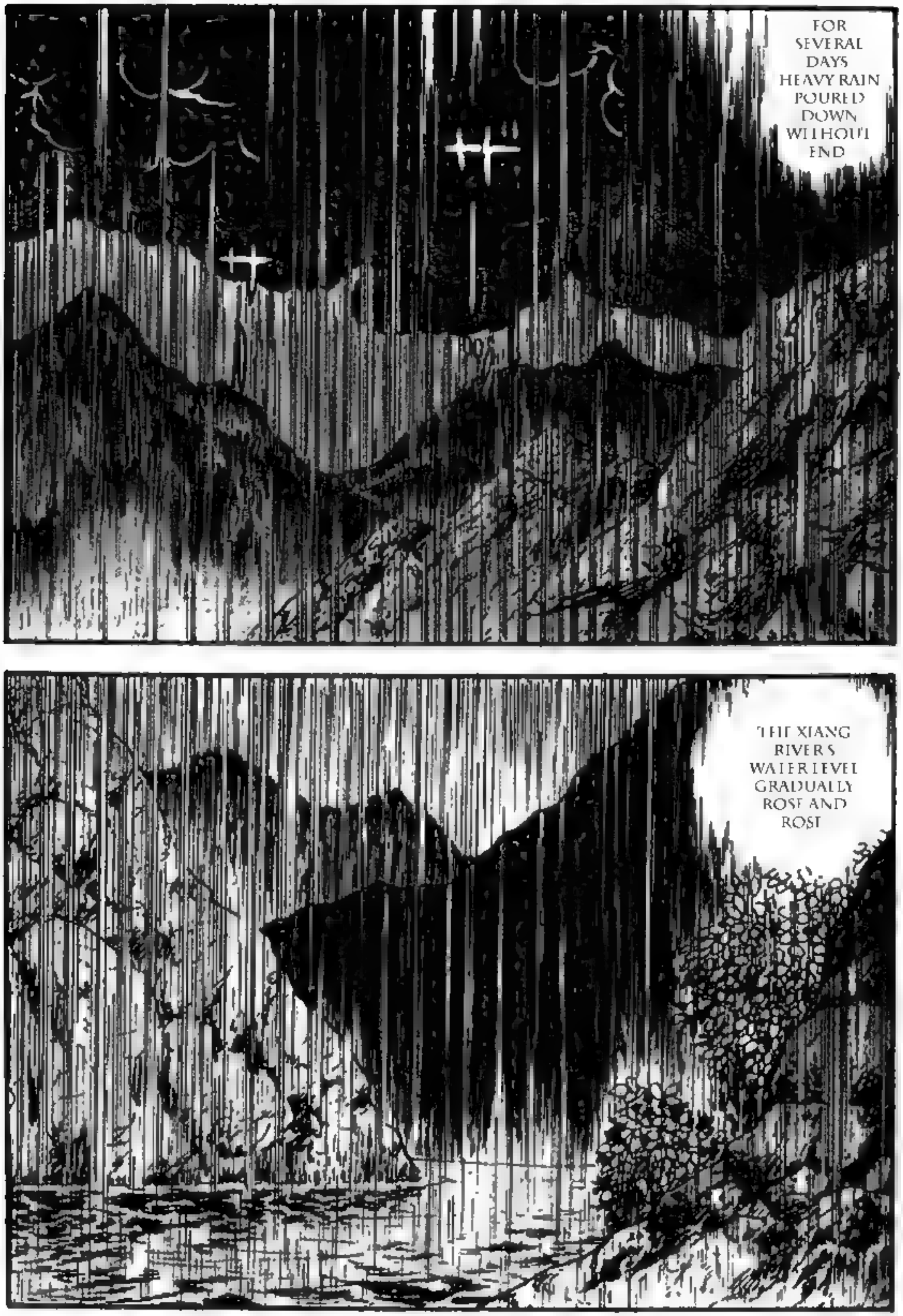
YES.

JUST TRUST YOUR FATHER FOR NOW AND CARRY OUT YOUR ORDERS.

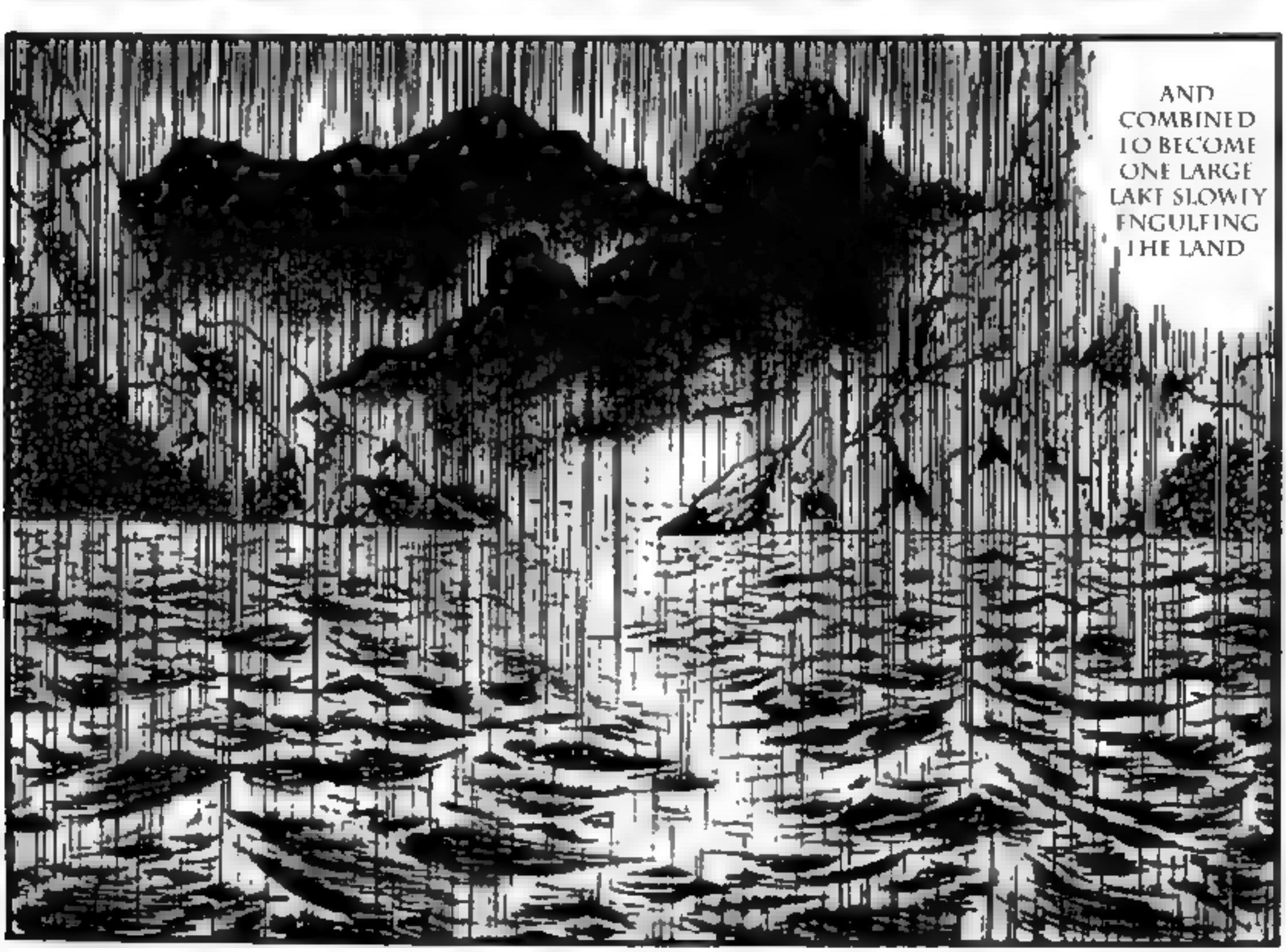
AH, YOU ARE STILL TOO YOUNG.

GUAN YU S ARMY
MADE NO OTHER
MOVE, CONTENT
ON STARVING
OUT FANCHENG S
GARRISON


AUTUMN
ARRIVED

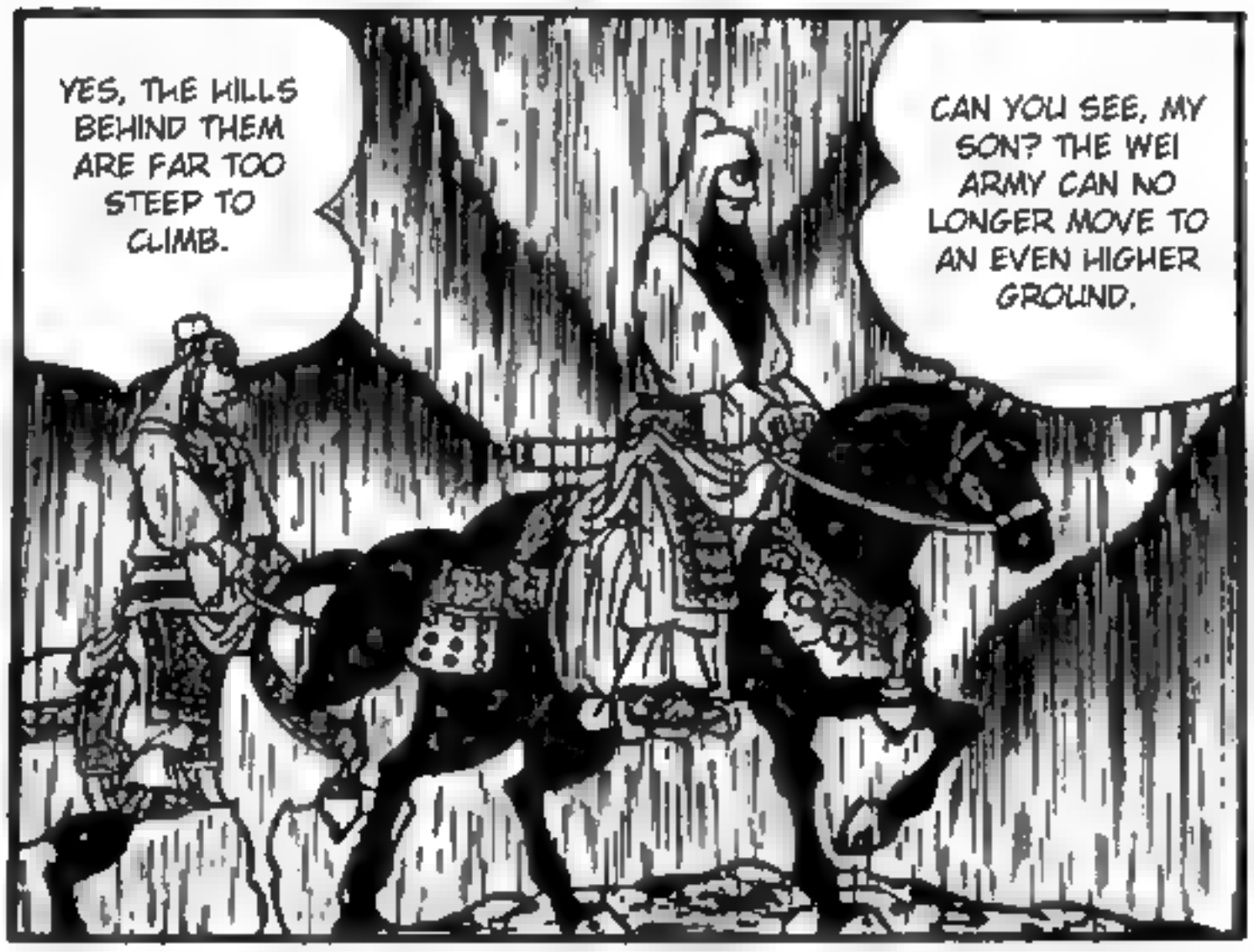

FOR
SEVERAL
DAYS
HEAVY RAIN
POURED
DOWN
WITHOUT
END
THE XIANG
RIVER'S
WATER LEVEL
GRADUALLY
ROSE AND
ROSE

THE TRIBUTARY STREAMS SOON OVER FLOODED,

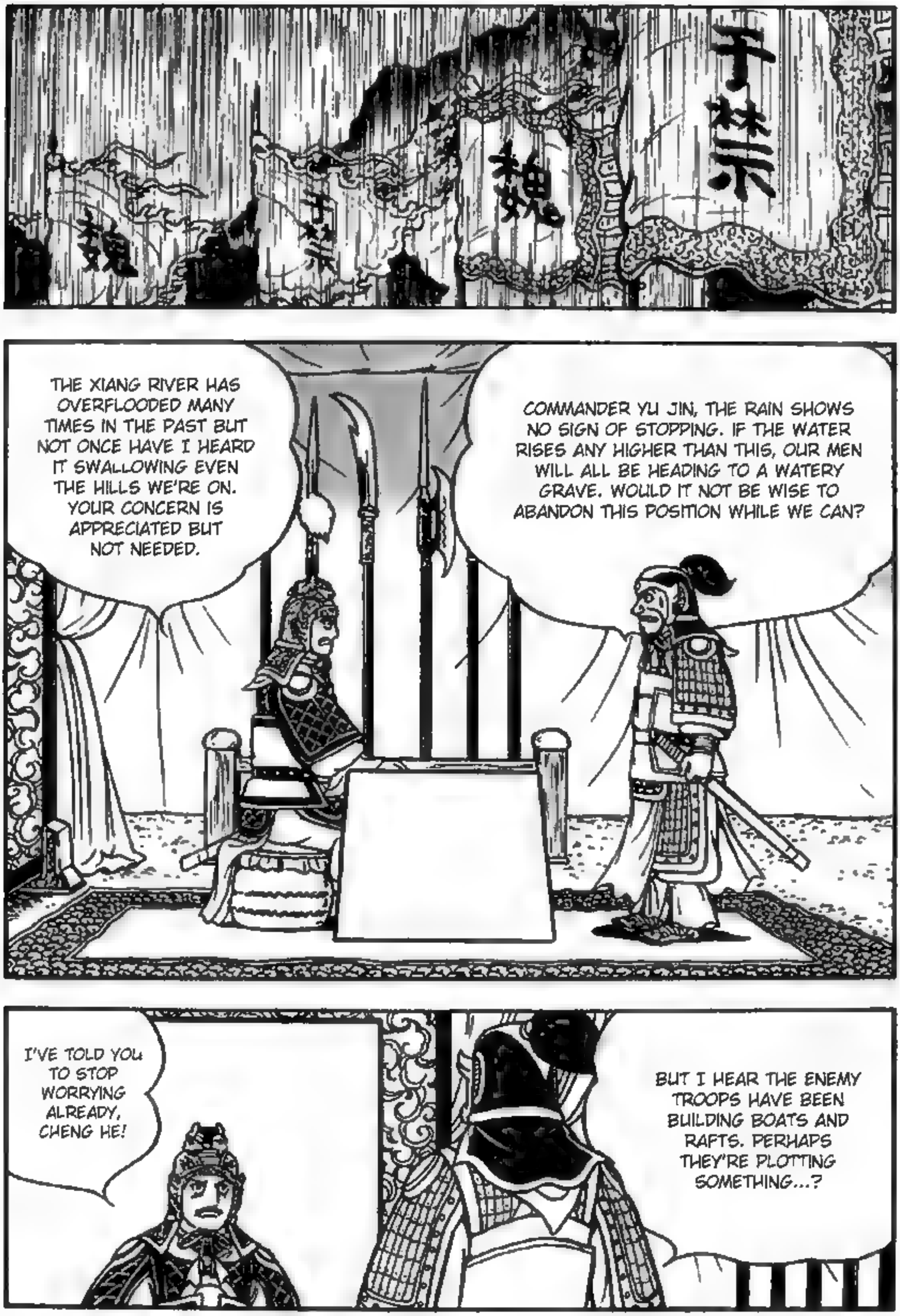

AND COMBINED TO BECOME ONE LARGE LAKE SLOWLY ENGULFING THE LAND

THE WET ARMY WAS NOW FORCED TO MOVE THEIR CAMPS TO HIGHER AND HIGHER GROUND PERIODICIALLY TO ESCAPE THE RISING WATER LEVEL

THIS IS WHAT I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR.


YES, THE HILLS BEHIND THEM ARE FAR TOO STEEP TO CLIMB.
CAN YOU SEE, MY SON? THE WEI ARMY CAN NO LONGER MOVE TO AN EVEN HIGHER GROUND.

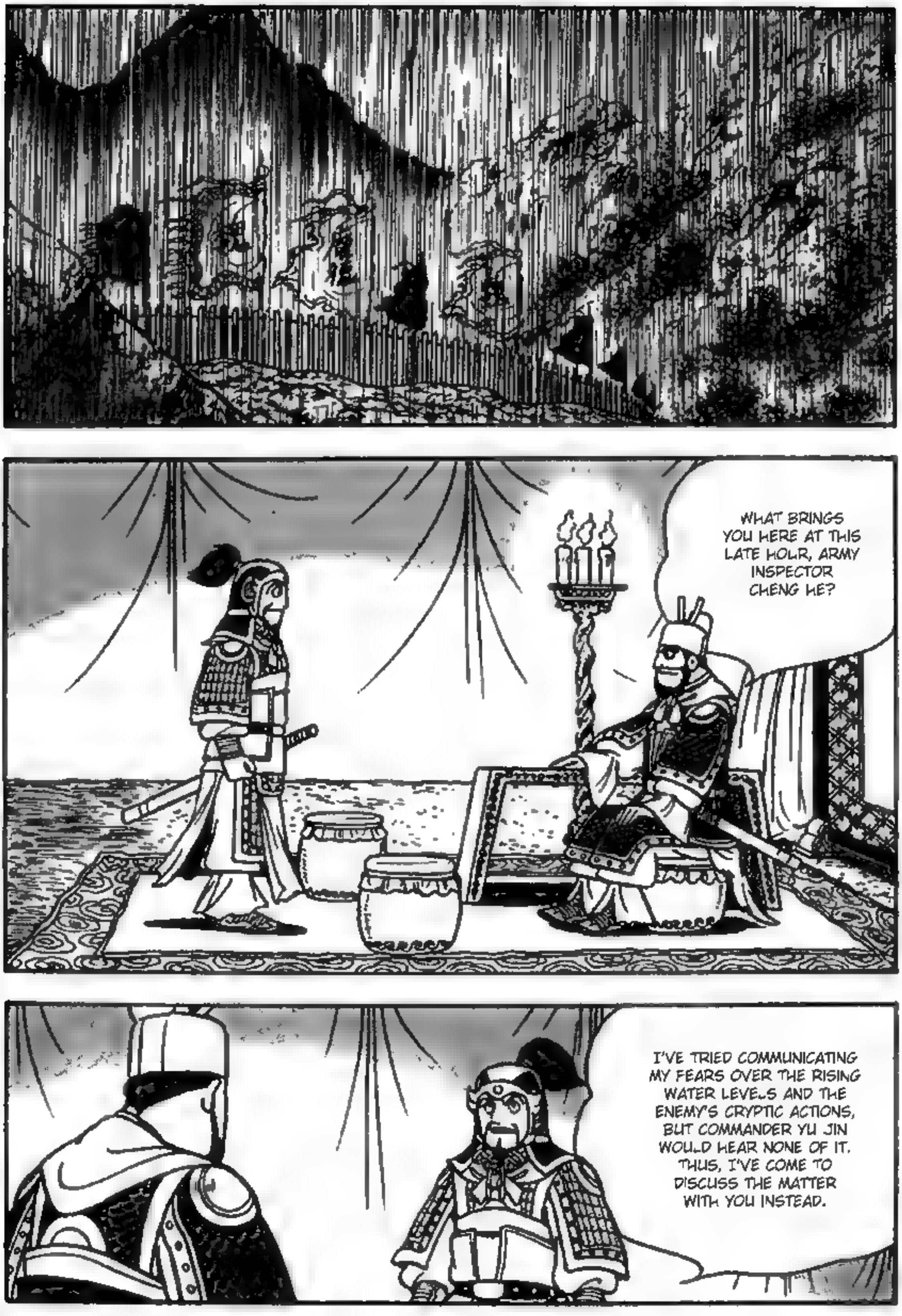
YES, FATHER.
GIVE THE SIGNAL TO BREAK OPEN THE DAM WE'VE CONSTRUCTED UPSTREAM.


THE XIANG RIVER HAS OVERFLOODED MANY TIMES IN THE PAST BUT NOT ONCE HAVE I HEARD IT SWALLOWING EVEN THE HILLS WE'RE ON. YOUR CONCERN IS APPRECIATED BUT NOT NEEDED.
COMMANDER YU JIN, THE RAIN SHOWS NO SIGN OF STOPPING. IF THE WATER RISES ANY HIGHER THAN THIS, OUR MEN WILL ALL BE HEADING TO A WATERY GRAVE. WOULD IT NOT BE WISE TO ABANDON THIS POSITION WHILE WE CAN?
I'VE TOLD YOU TO STOP WORRYING ALREADY, CHENG HE!
BUT I HEAR THE ENEMY TROOPS HAVE BEEN BUILDING BOATS AND RAFTS. PERHAPS THEY'RE PLOTTING SOMETHING...?

FORGIVE ME, SIR.

EVEN THE SLIGHTEST LOOK OF WORRY IN AN OFFICER'S EYE CAN FEED THE DOUBTS OF SOLDIERS AND PLUMMET THE MORALE OF THE ENTIRE ARMY!

THAT'S RIGHT, I'LL CONSULT WITH PANG DE.


WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE AT THIS LATE HOUR, ARMY INSPECTOR CHENG HE?
I'VE TRIED COMMUNICATING MY FEARS OVER THE RISING WATER LEVELS AND THE ENEMY'S CRYPTIC ACTIONS, BUT COMMANDER YU JIN WOULD HEAR NONE OF IT. THUS, I'VE COME TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH YOU INSTEAD.

YOU TOO?

YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING THE SAME.

CRYPTIC ENEMY ACTIONS?

EXACTLY! I'D HAVE NO WORRIES IF GUAN YU ONLY STOPPED AT MOVING TO HIGHER GROUND LIKE US.

YES, THE XIANG RIVER IS KNOWN TO OVERFLOW PERIODICALLY BUT IT'S NEVER BEEN ENOUGH TO SWALLOW THE HILLS. THUS, THE ENEMY NEEDS ONLY TO MOVE FOR HIGHER GROUND AS WE HAVE. BUT IF SO, WHY BUILD RAFTS AND BOATS AT ALL? THEY MUST BE PLANNING SOMETHING...

YES... BUT I CAN'T SHAKE OFF THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING OMINOUS WILL HAPPEN.

I'M AFRAID YU JIN'S LET HIS POSITION AS COMMANDER GET TO HIS HEAD TO LEND A PROPER EAR TO OUR CONCERNS, HOWEVER...

WHAT!? YOU MEAN DISOBEY THE CHAIN OF COMMAND?

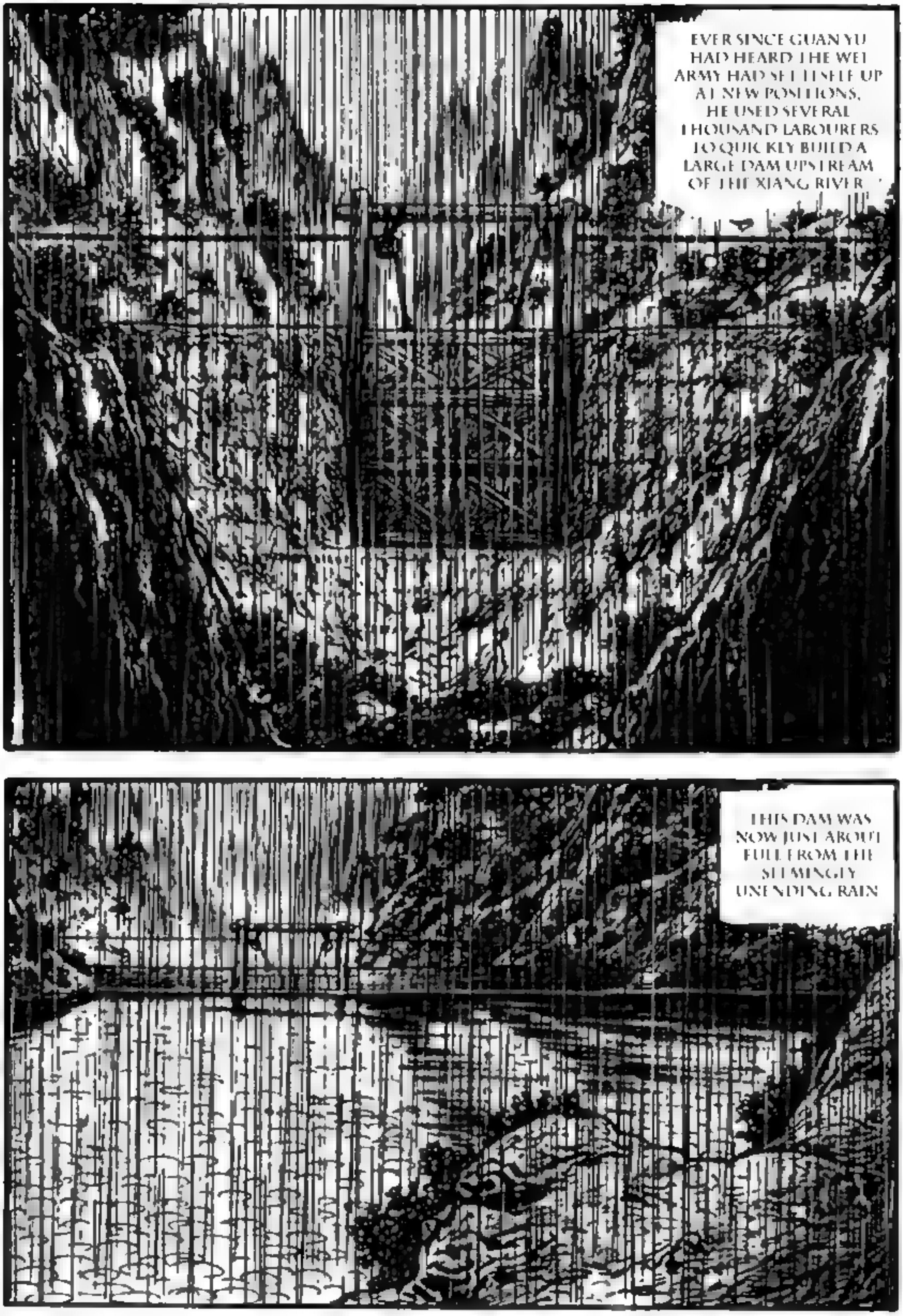
FINE, THEN LET US AT LEAST MOVE OUR CAMPS TOMORROW.

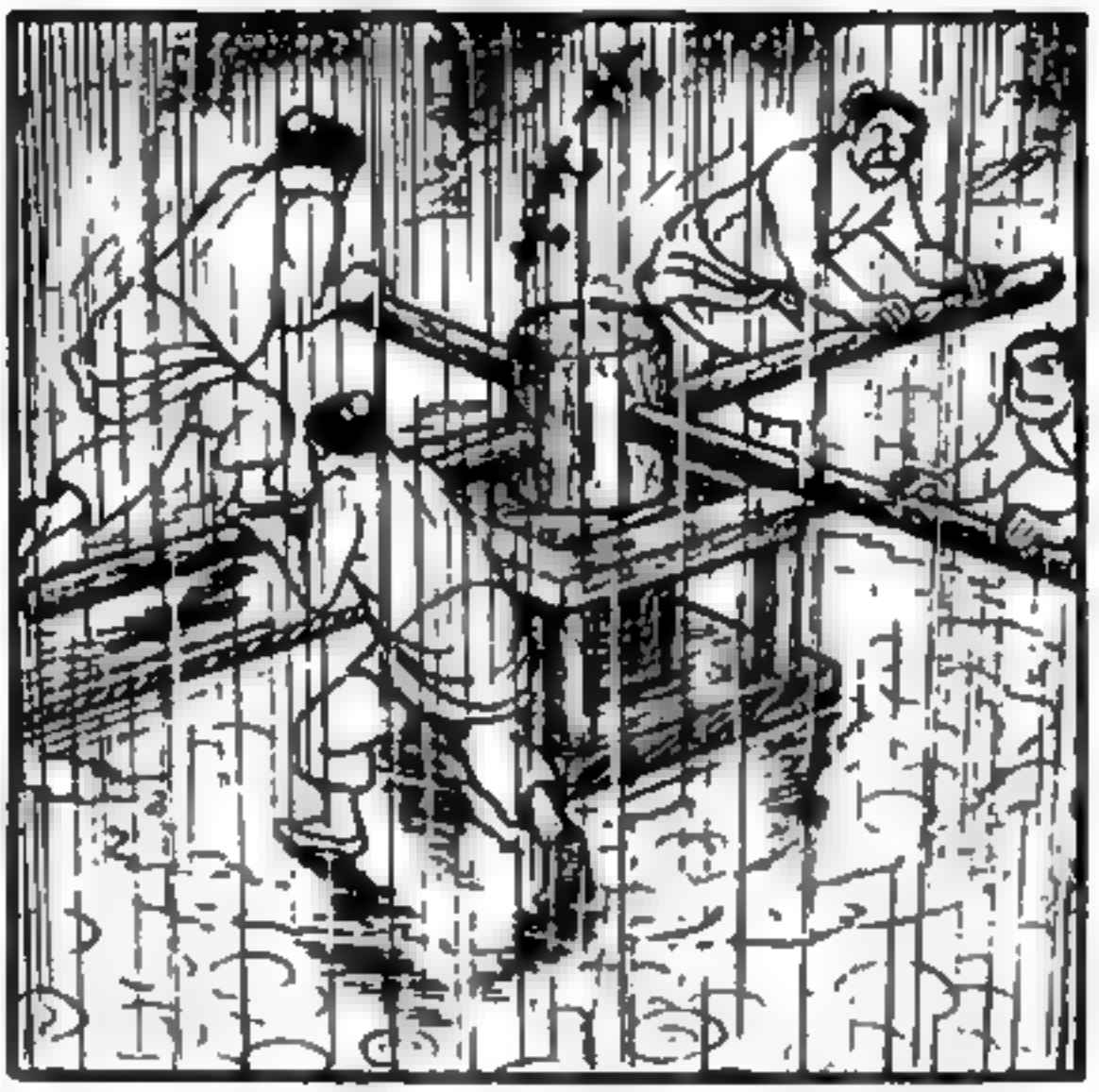
MN...

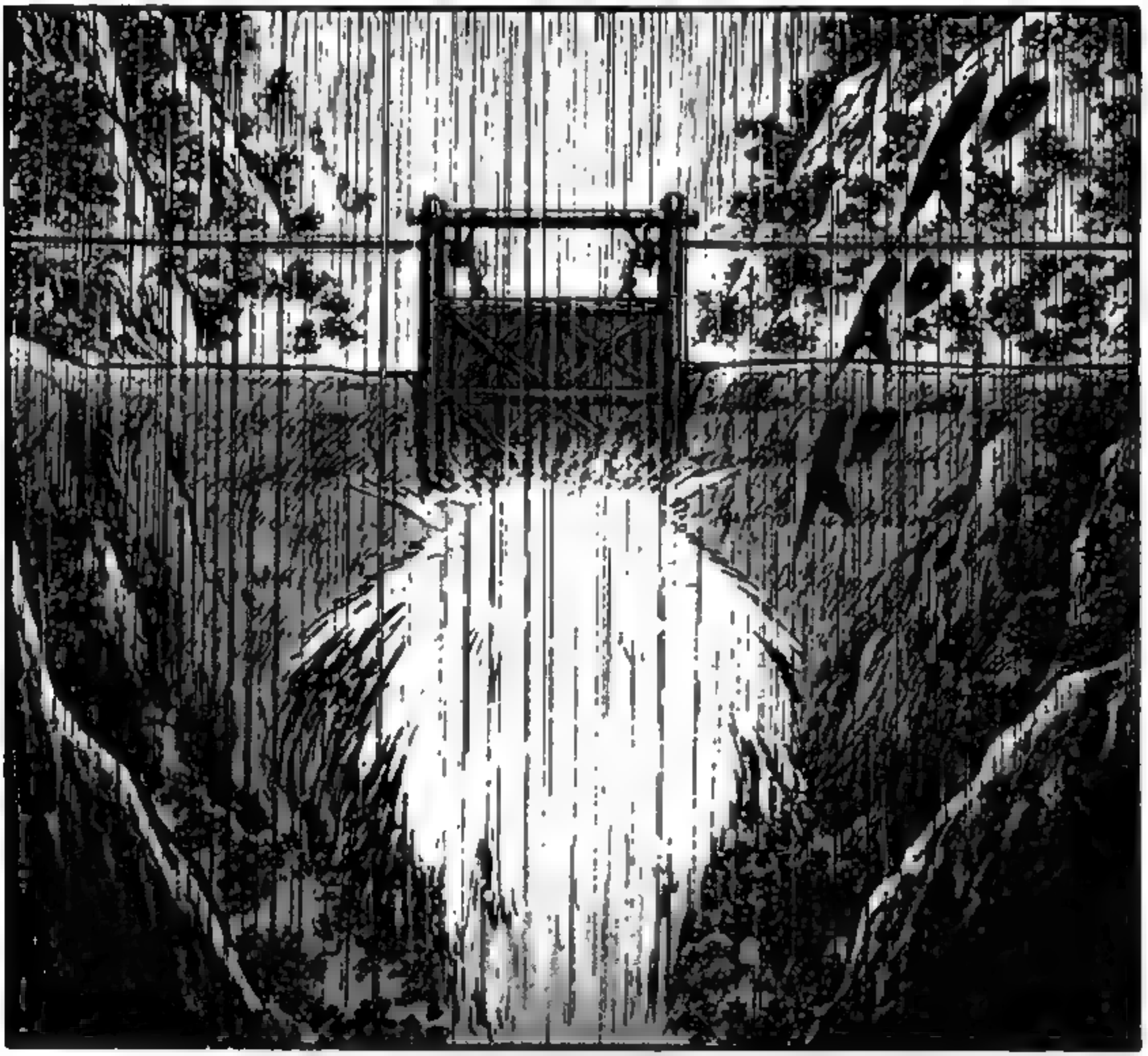
IF THE WORST HAPPENS AND THE WATER RISES EVEN HIGHER, WE'LL ALL DROWN IGNOMINIOUSLY.

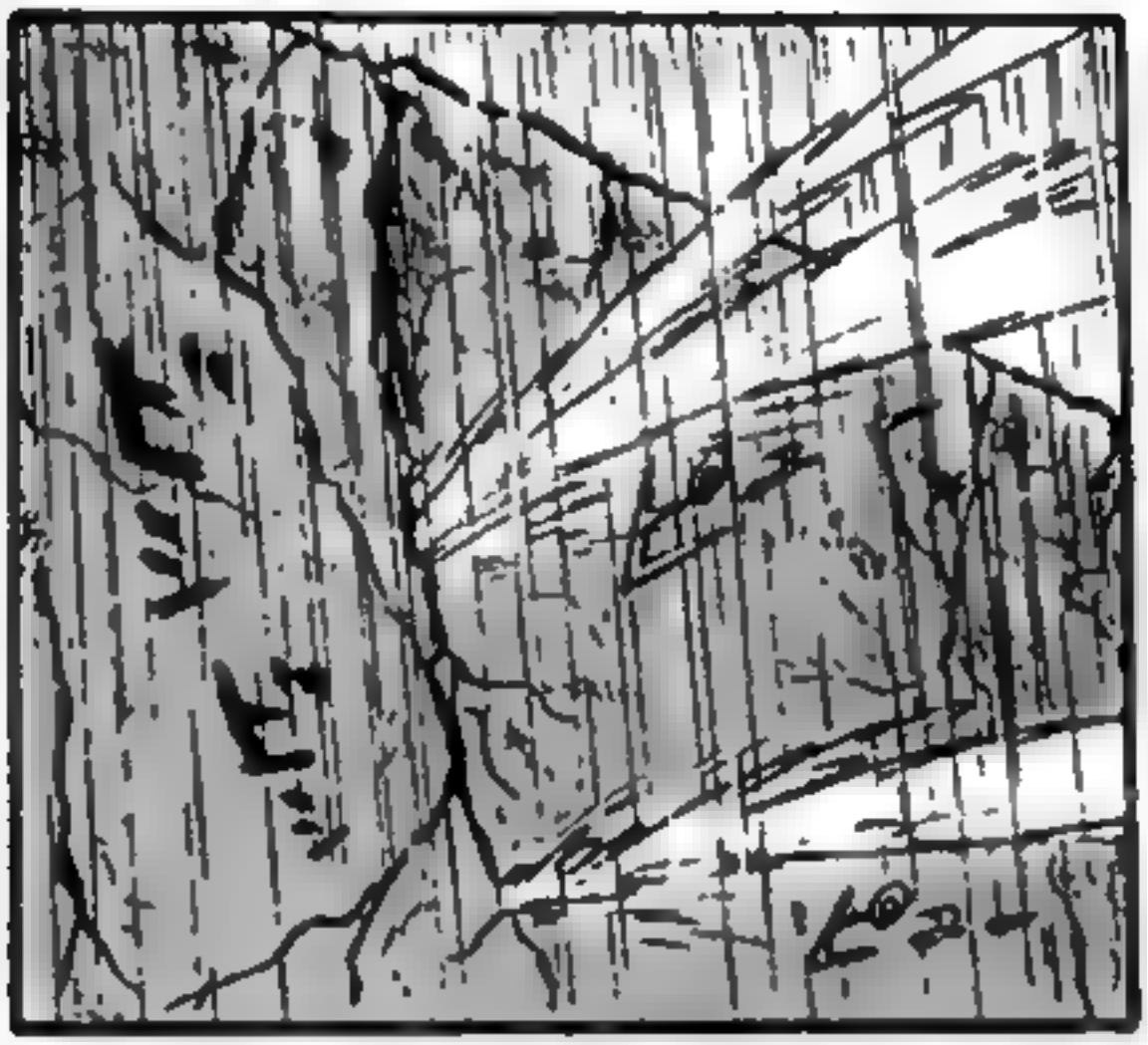
SO IF YOU AGREE, THEN LET US ENJOY A DRINK NOW WHILE WE STILL CAN

VERY WELL.


EVER SINCE GUAN YU
HAD HEARD THE WEI
ARMY HAD SETTLED UP
AT NEW POSITIONS,
HE USED SEVERAL
THOUSAND LABOURERS
TO QUICKLY BUILD A
LARGE DAM UPSTREAM
OF THE XIANG RIVER.
THIS DAM WAS
NOW JUST ABOUT
FULL FROM THE
SEEMINGLY
UNENDING RAIN



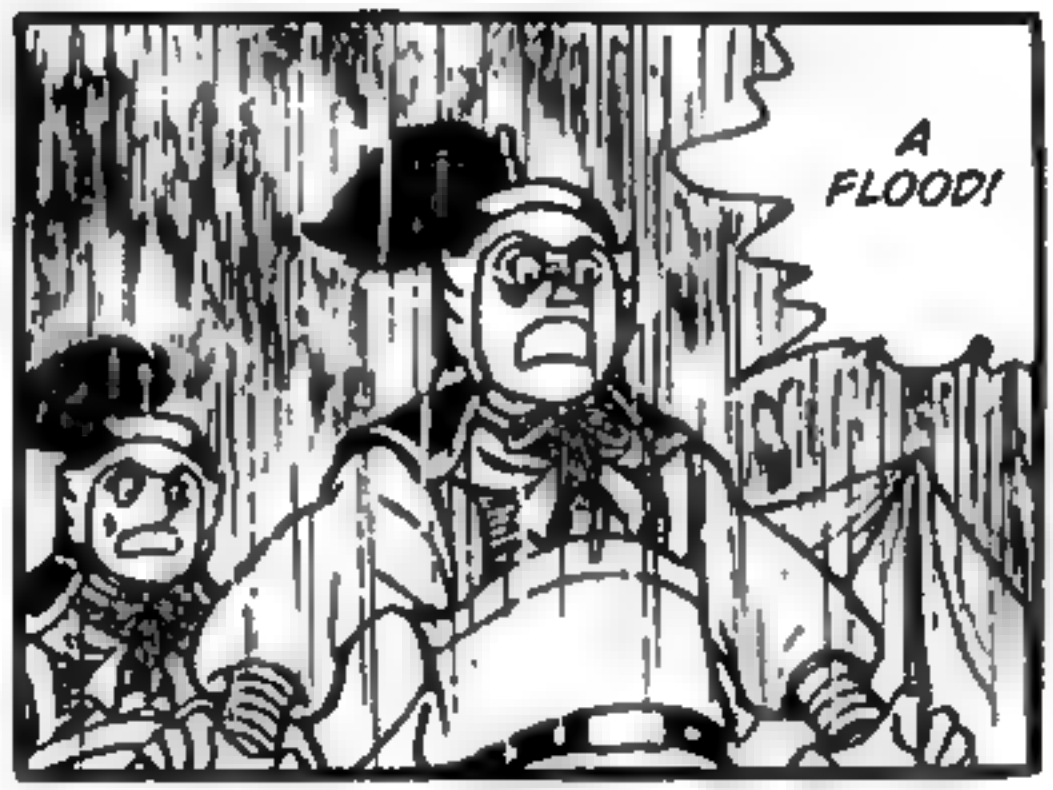


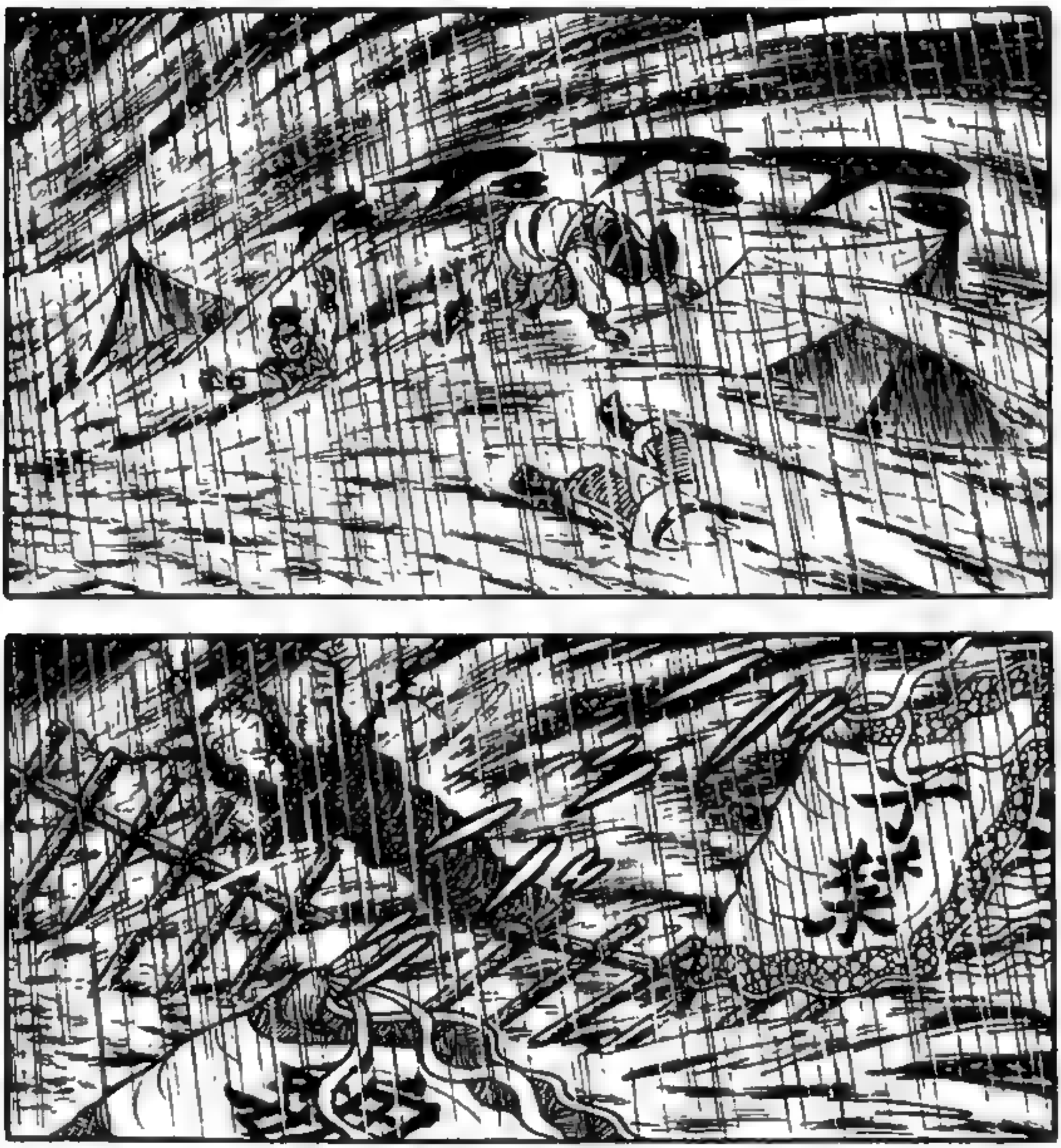


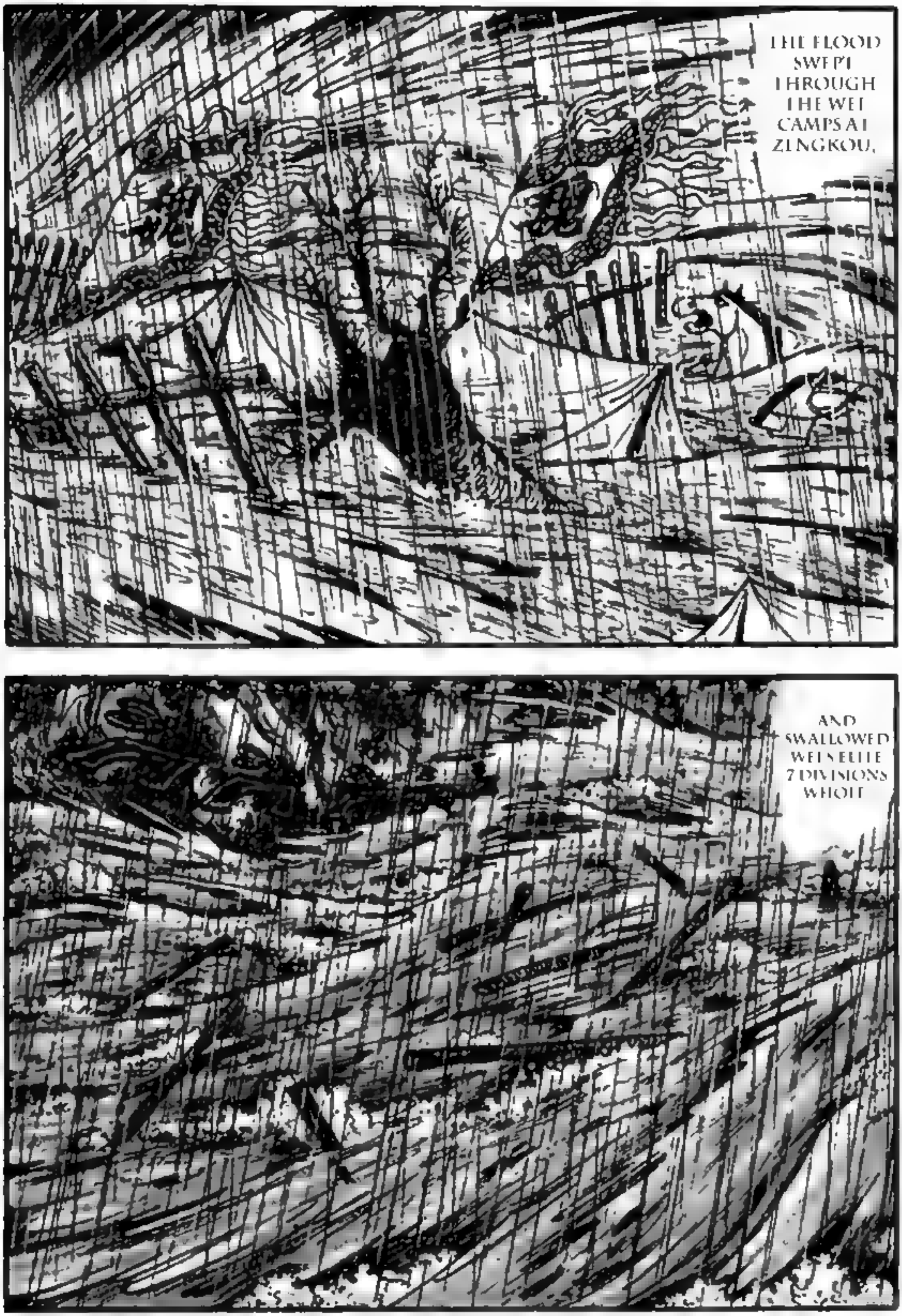
HM?

WHAT'S
THAT
NOISE!?

AGHHH!


A FLOOD!




THE FLOOD
SWEPT
THROUGH
THE WEI
CAMPS AT
ZENGKOU,
AND
SWALLOWED
WEI'S ELITE
7 DIVISIONS
WHOLE

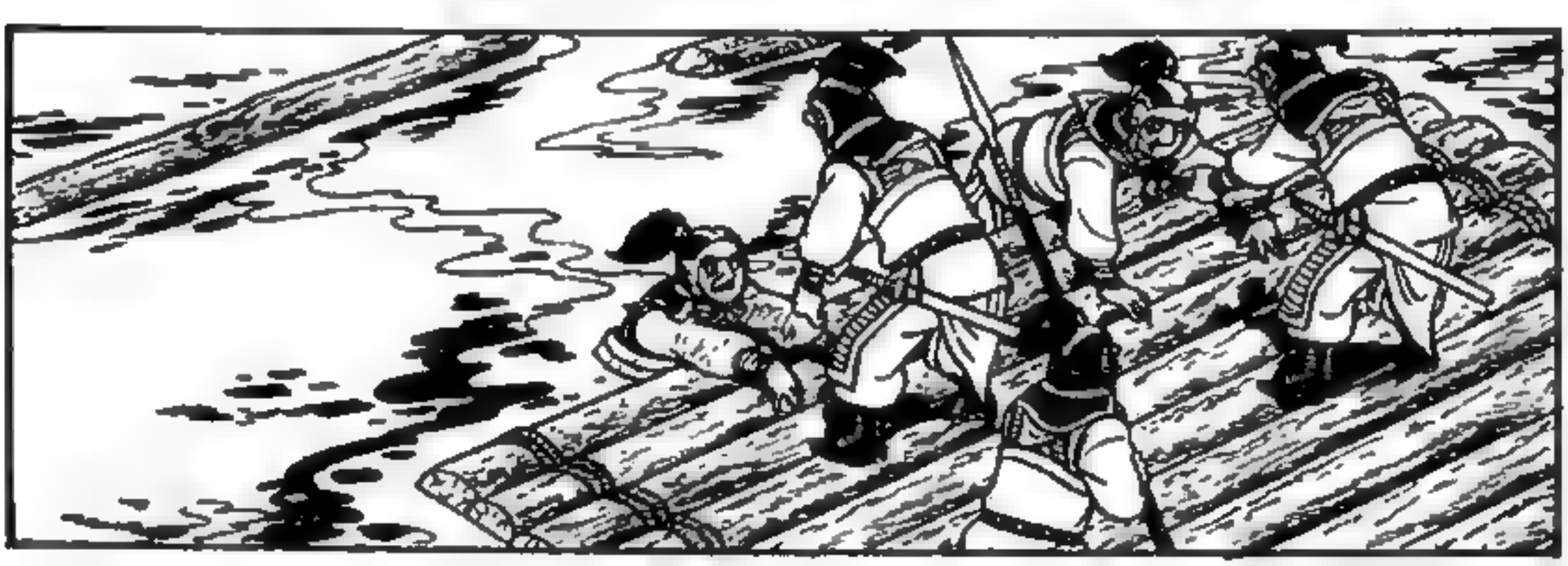
OPPOSE ONLY THOSE WHO STILL WISH TO RESIST US.

TAKE ABOARD ALL ENEMY SOLDIERS WILLING TO SURRENDER.

HELP!

HELP!

PLEASE
HELP!

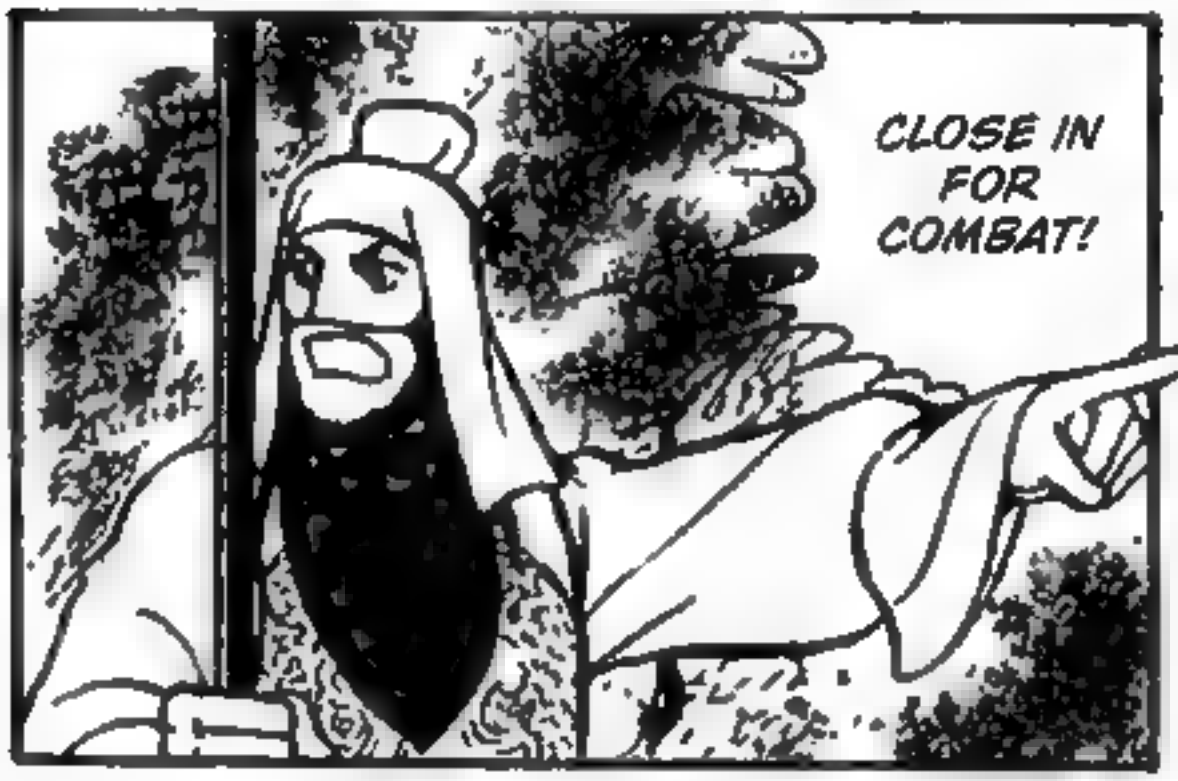


WHAT!?

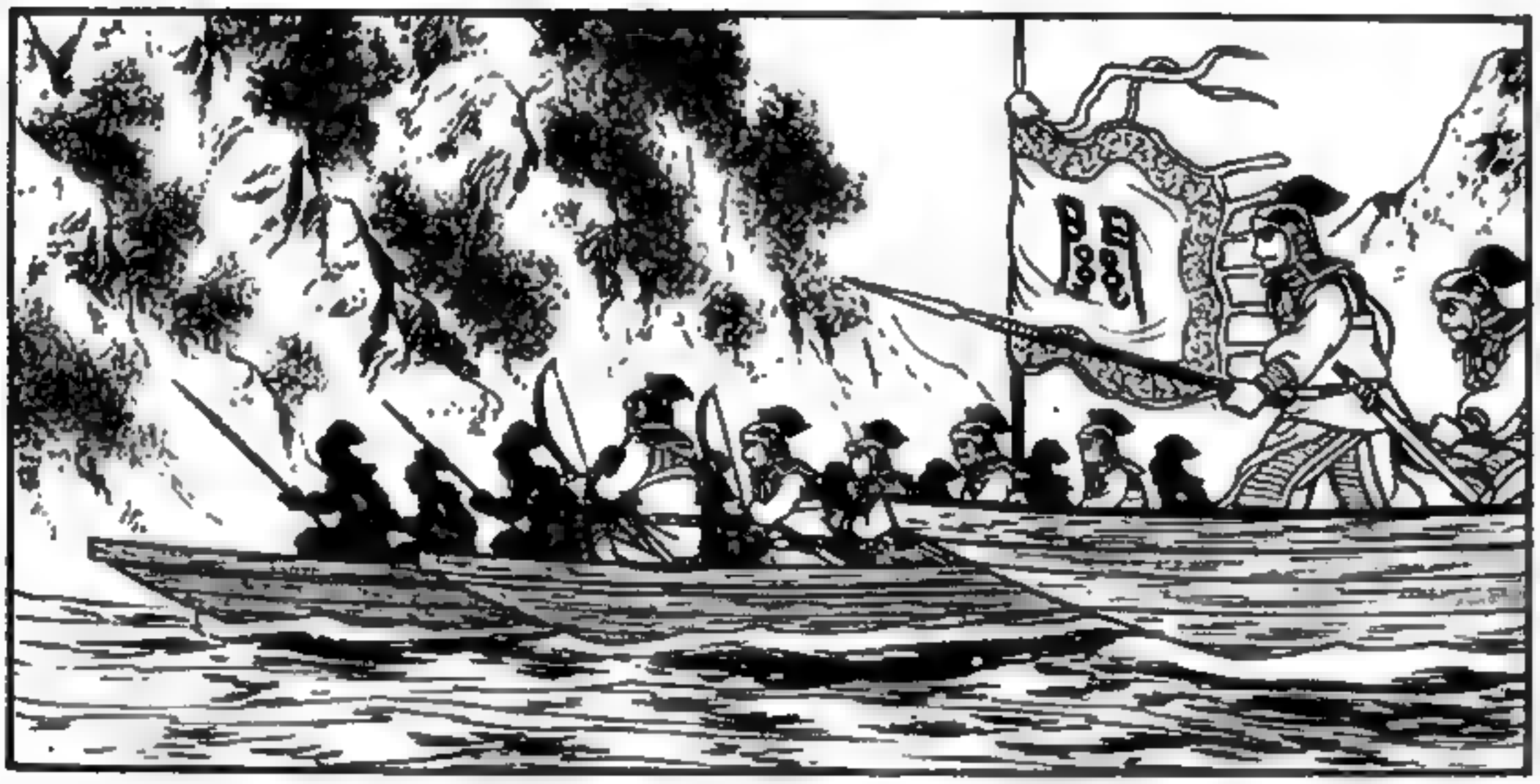
SIR, THERE'S AN ENEMY CAMP UP THERE INTACT!

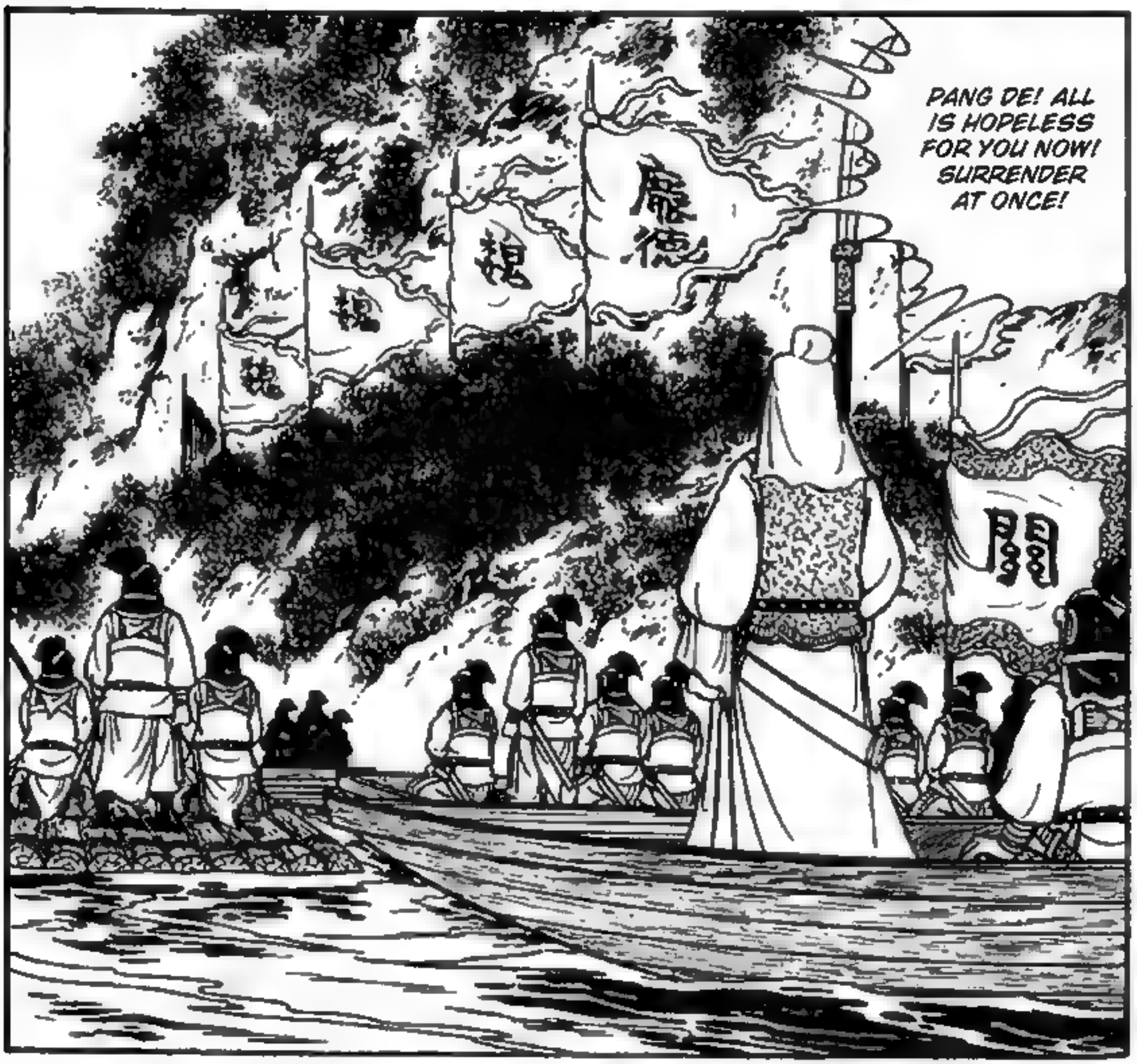
龐德

龐
龐


CLOSE IN FOR COMBAT!

IT'S PANG DE'S BANNER!




PANG DE! ALL IS HOPELESS FOR YOU NOW! SURRENDER AT ONCE!

HAHA! WELL PLAYED, GUAN YU!

龐德

WE WILL FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN!

BUT KNOW YOU THIS! I HAVE NOT COME TO BATTLE CARRYING MY OWN COFFIN TO QUIETLY SURRENDER!

THAT IS RIGHT! LONG AGO, I WAS DEFEATED BY WEI AND SOUGHT SHELTER IN HANZHONG!

YOU STILL WISH TO FIGHT, KNOWING ITS FUTILE?

IT WAS DURING THEN THAT THE KING OF WEI KINDLY RECEIVED ME AND GAVE ME A CHANCE TO START OVER.

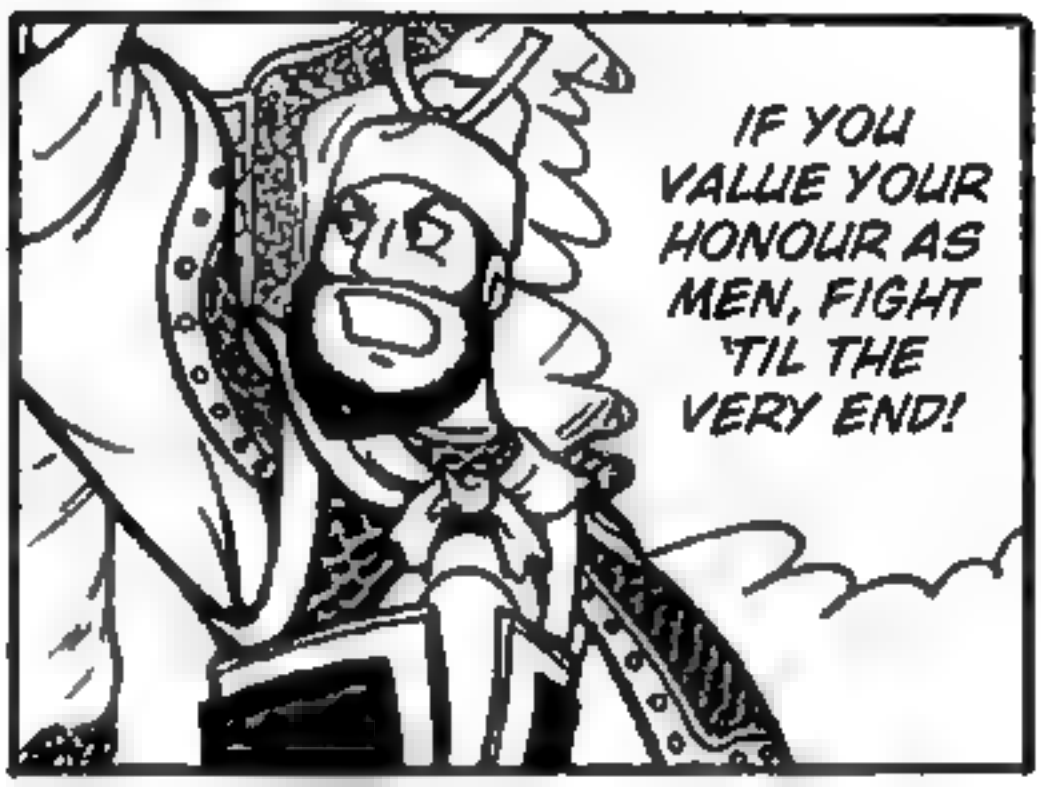
BUT TRYING TO REPAY MY DEBTS TO ZHANG LU OF HANZHONG ONLY GOT ME LABELLED A TRAITOR.

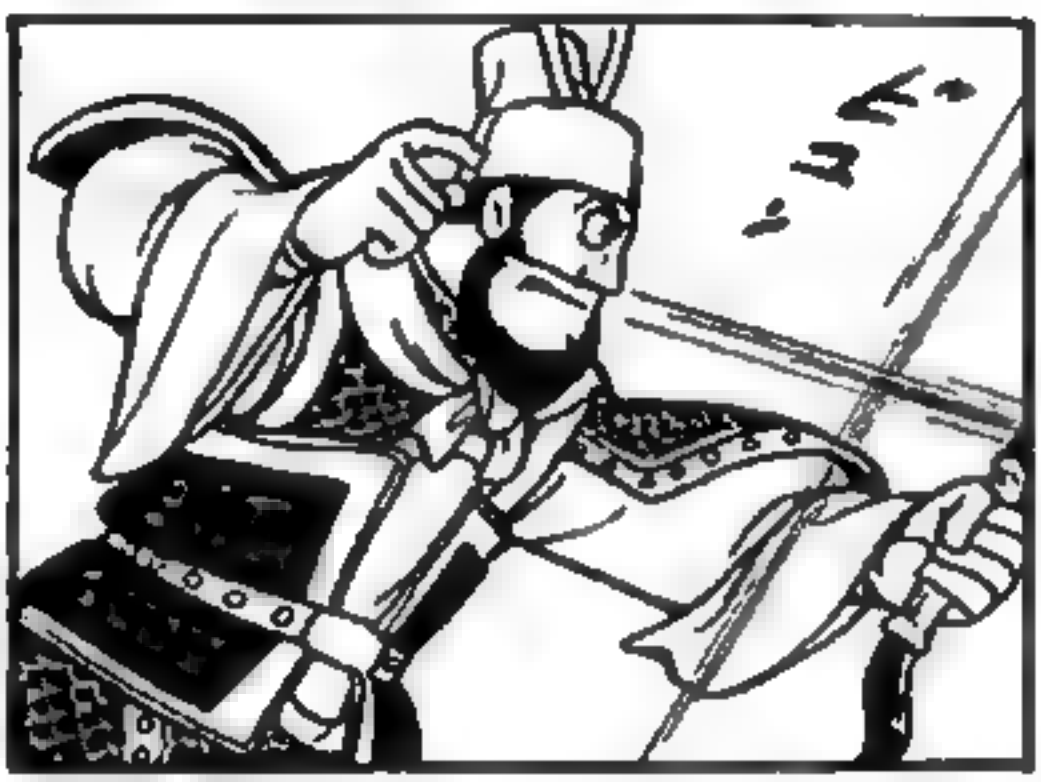
VERY WELL. I WILL GRANT YOU YOUR FINAL BATTLE.

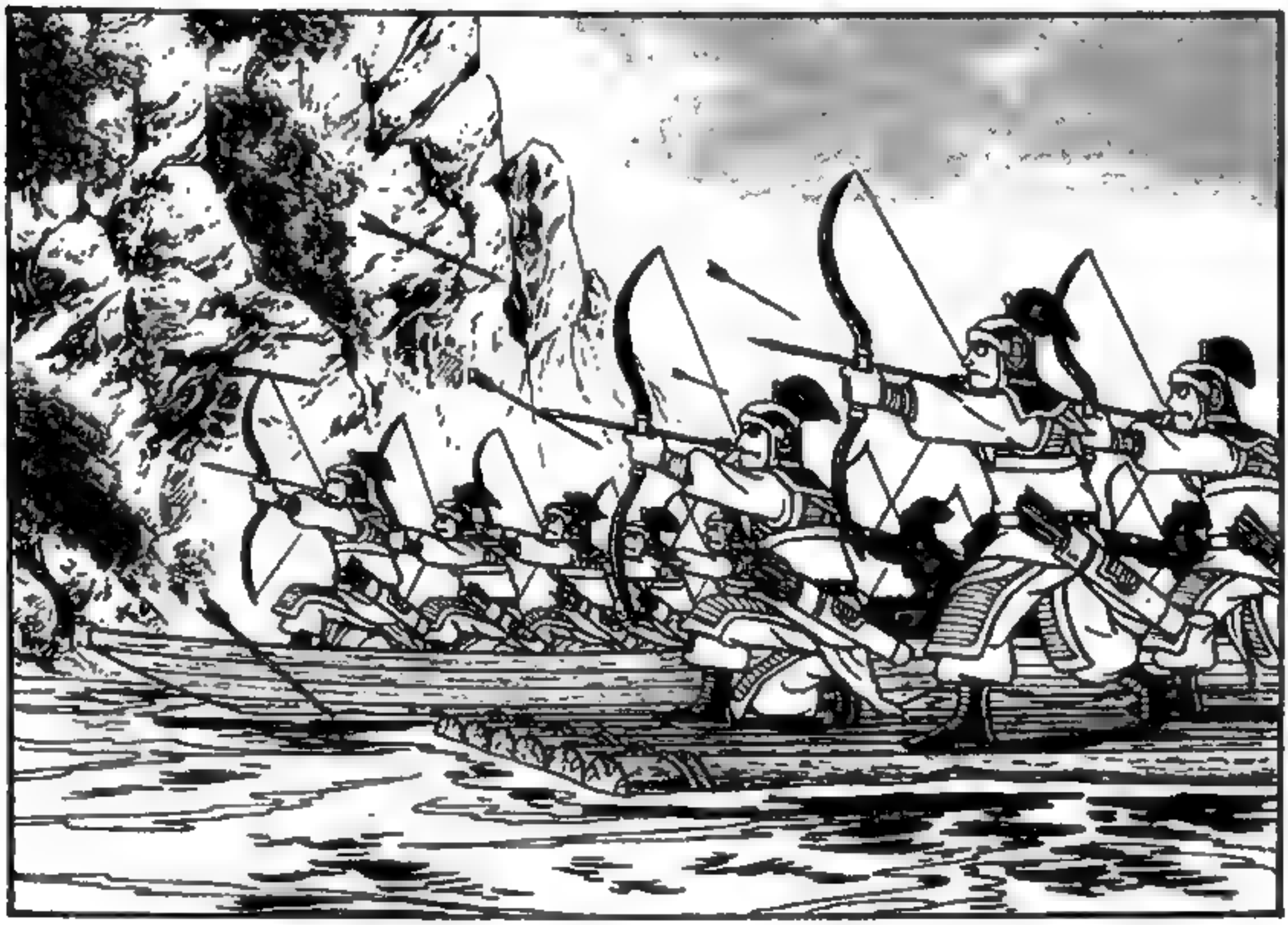
THE KING OF WEI IS MY ONLY MASTER. I WILL SUBMIT TO NO OTHER IN THIS LIFE.

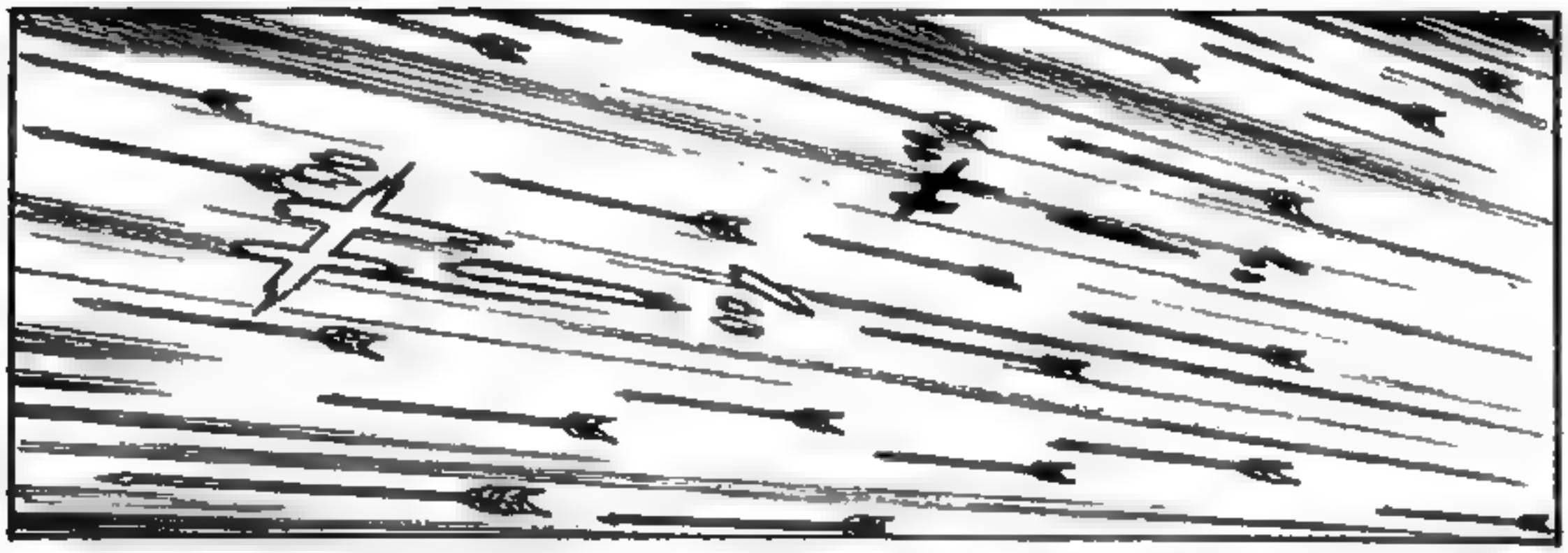
BUT IF I SURRENDER NOW, AFTER HAVING CARRIED MY COFFIN ALL THE WAY HERE, WHAT WILL POSTERIOR GENERATIONS SAY OF MY CHARACTER?

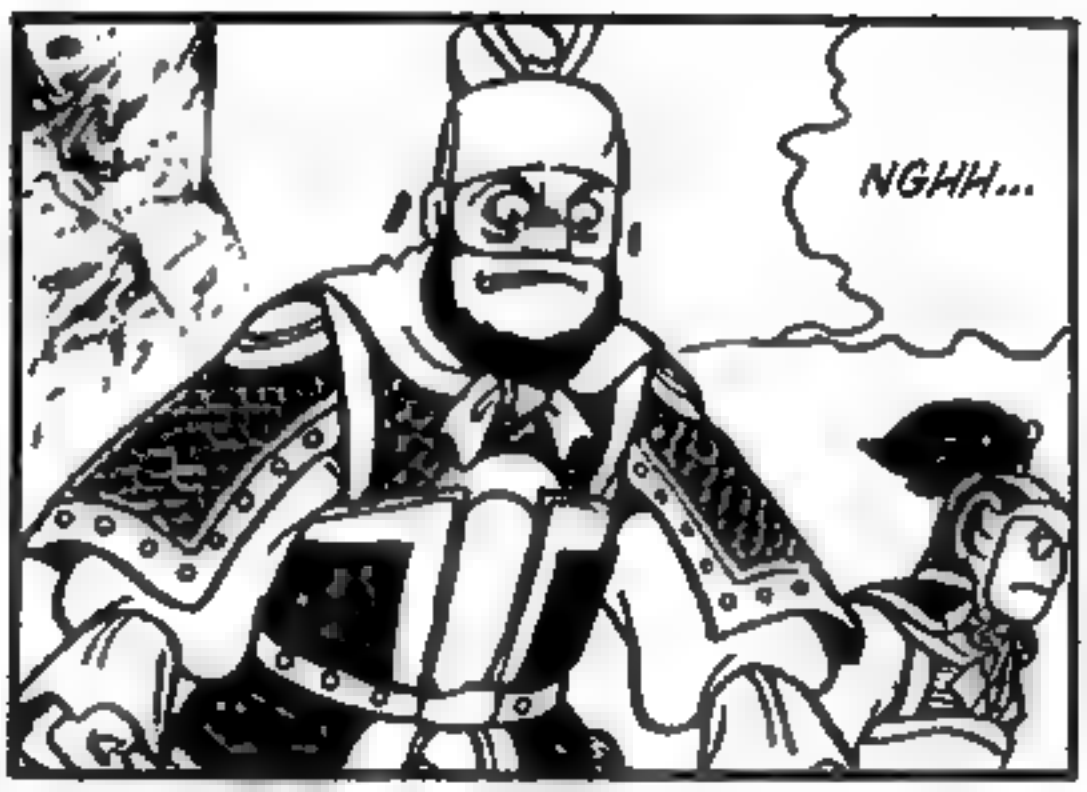
ATTACK!

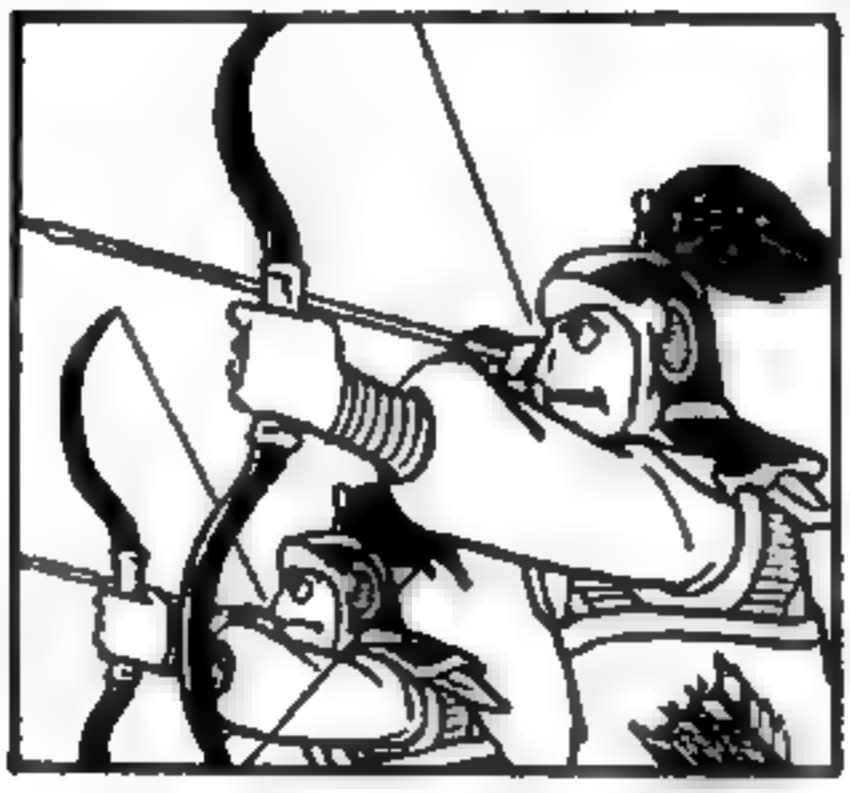

IF YOU VALUE YOUR HONOUR AS MEN, FIGHT 'TIL THE VERY END!

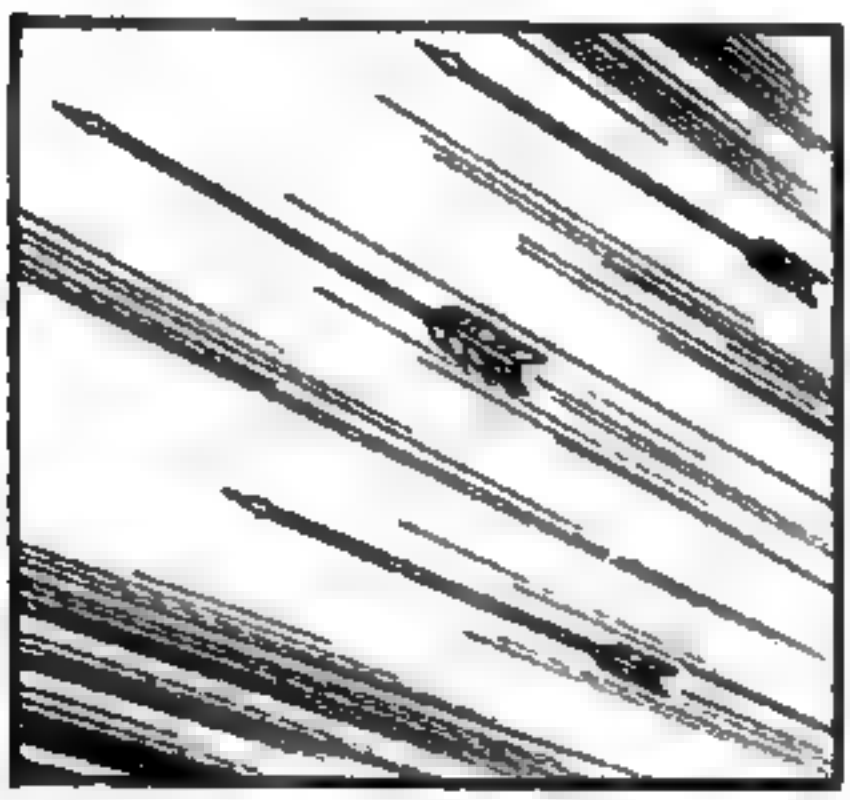




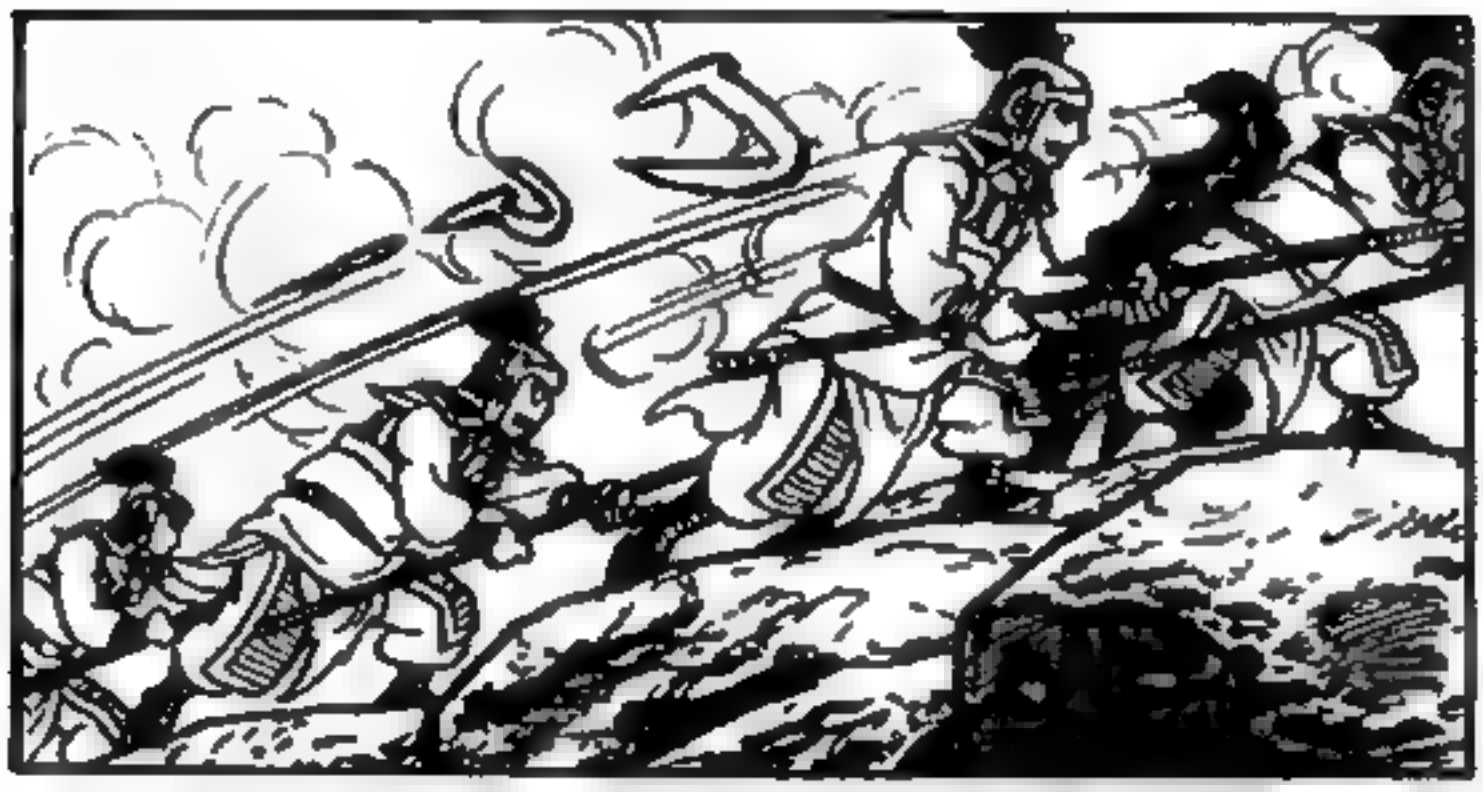



NGHH...



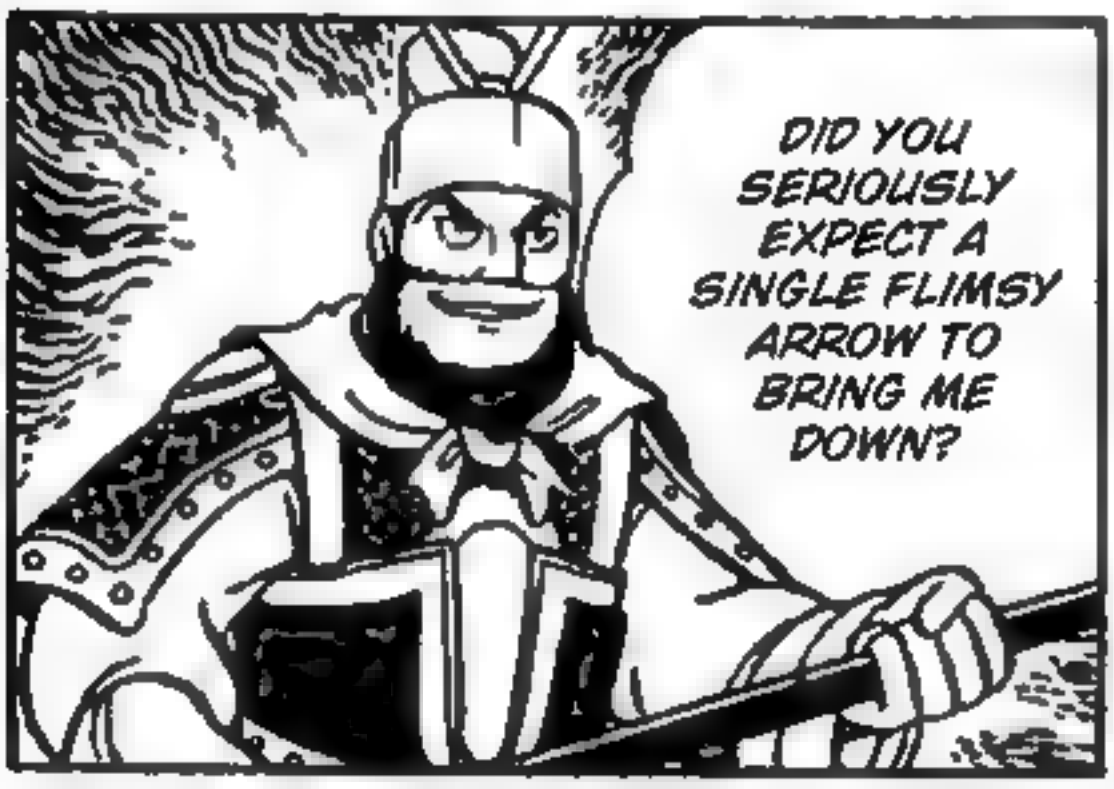


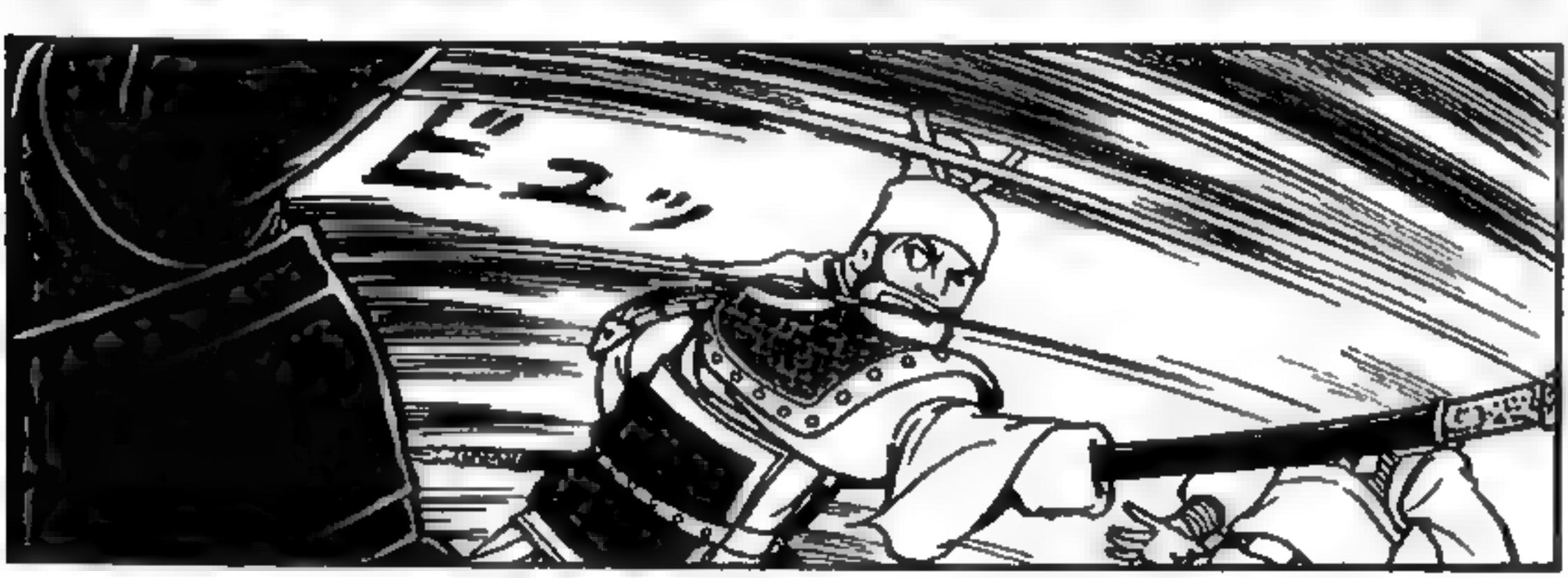
MNF-



I GOT HIM!

AHH!
AH!


DID YOU SERIOUSLY EXPECT A SINGLE FLIMSY ARROW TO BRING ME DOWN?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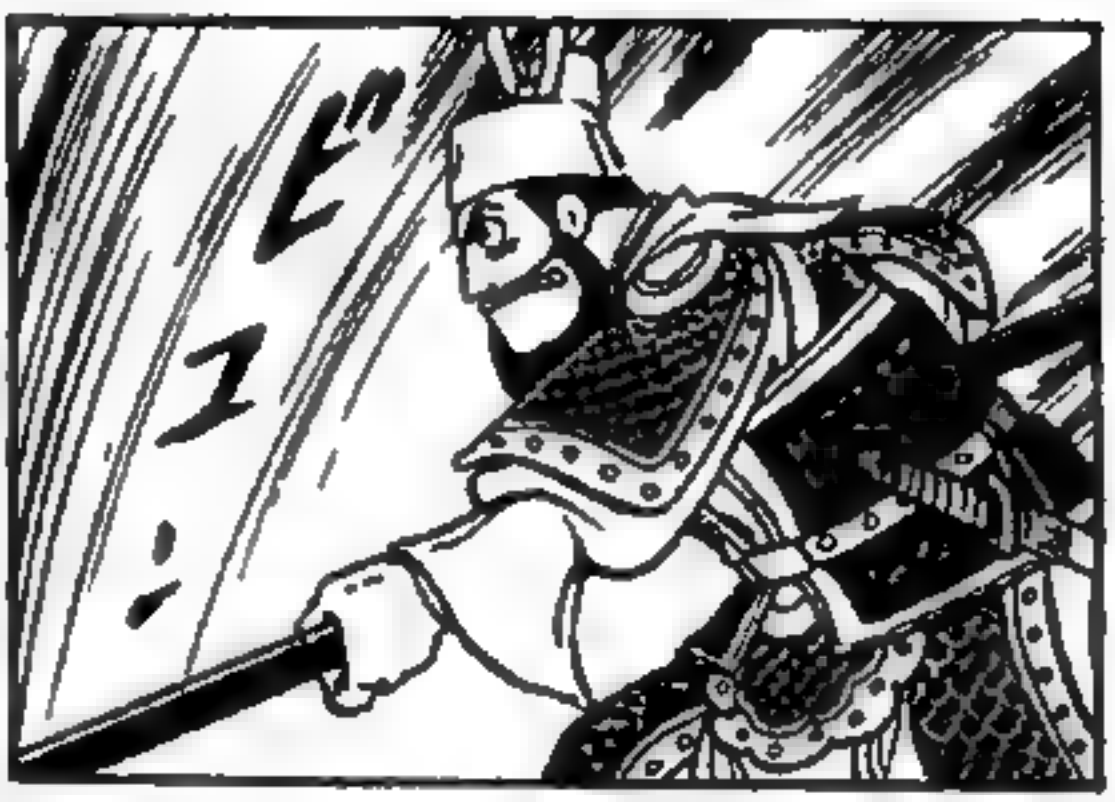
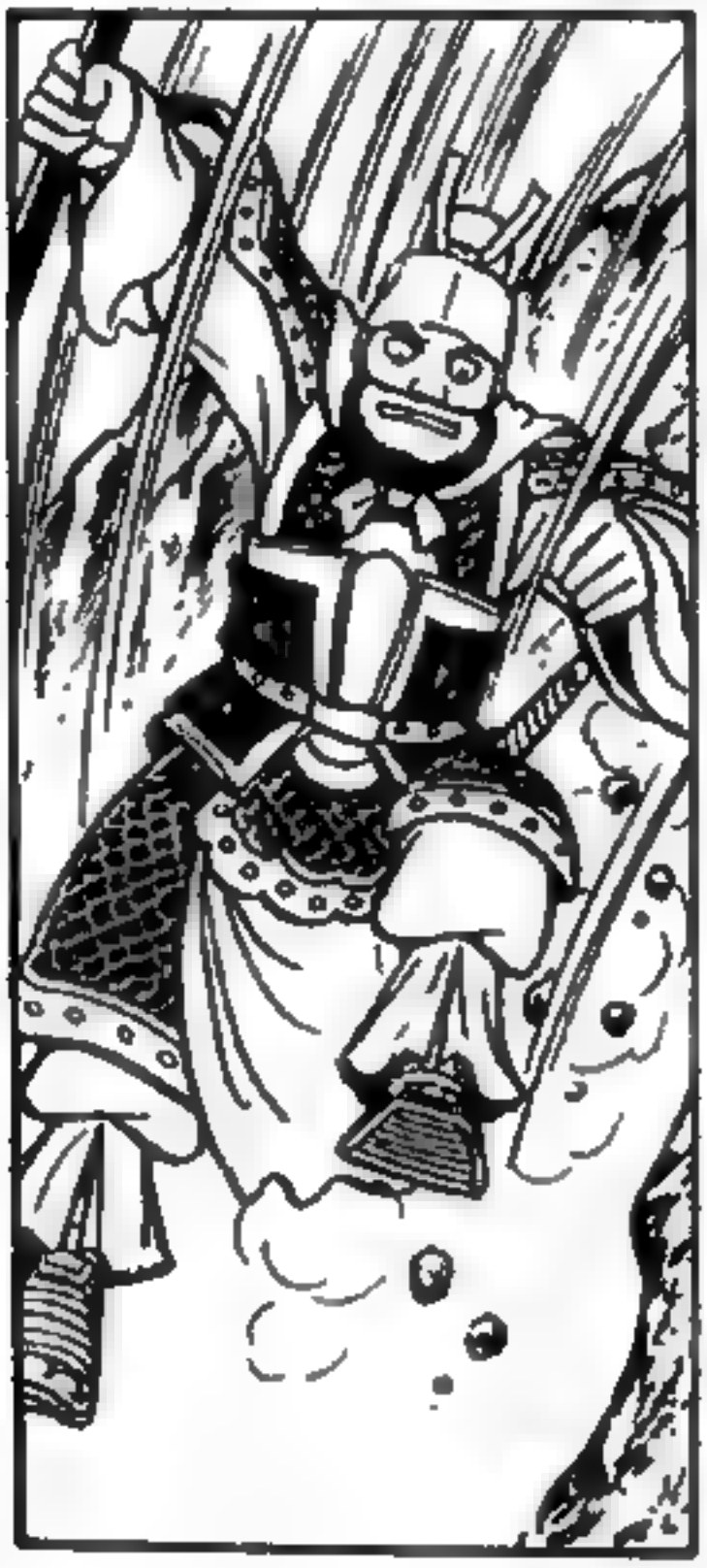
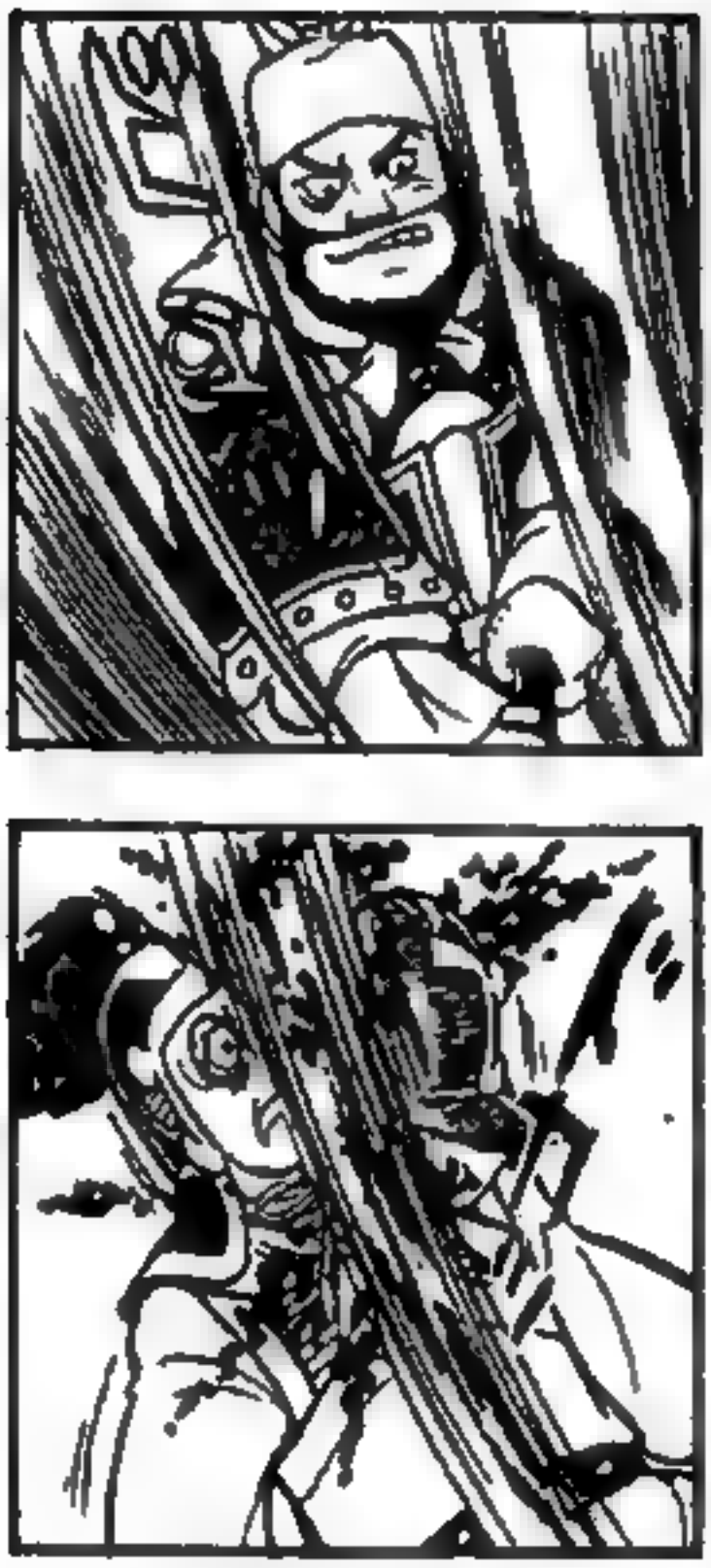


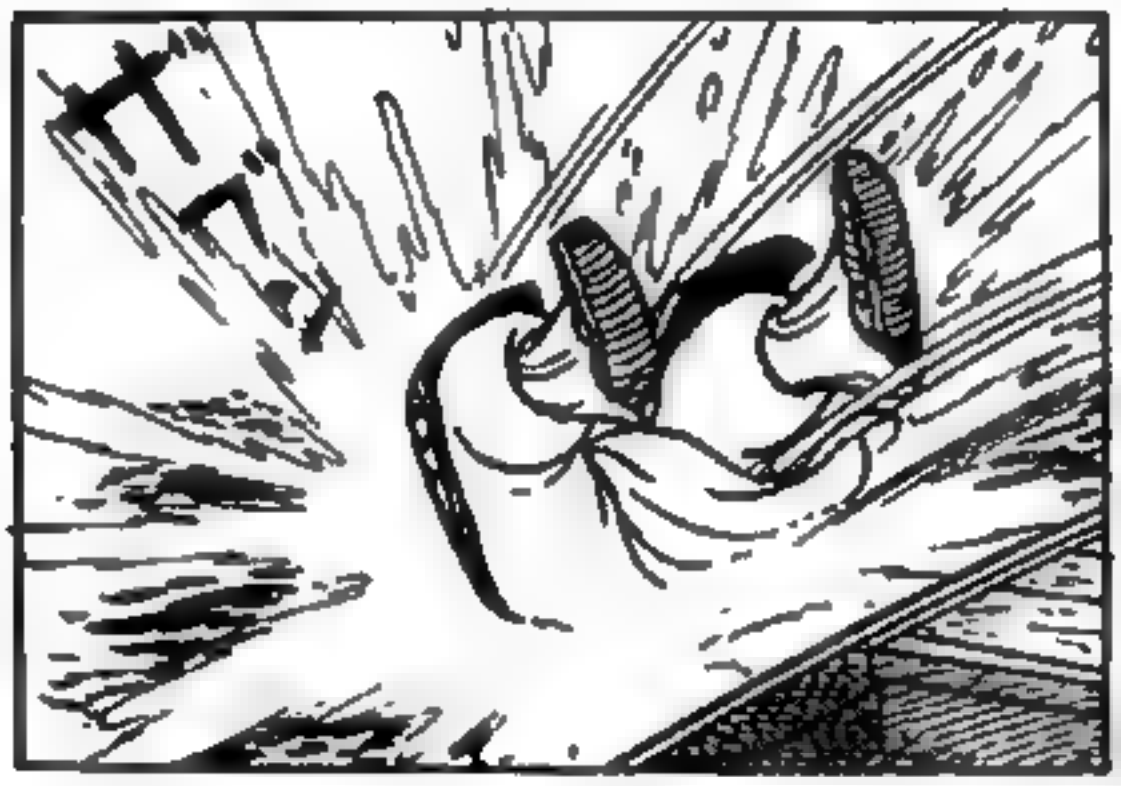
MNN...

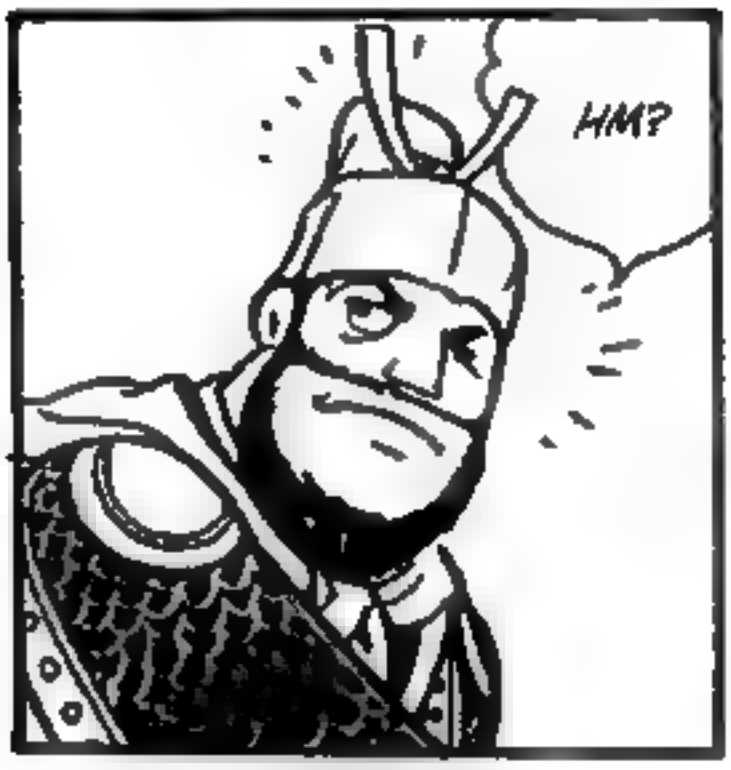
WE CAN'T SHOOT WHEN HE'S SO CLOSE TO OUR COMRADES!

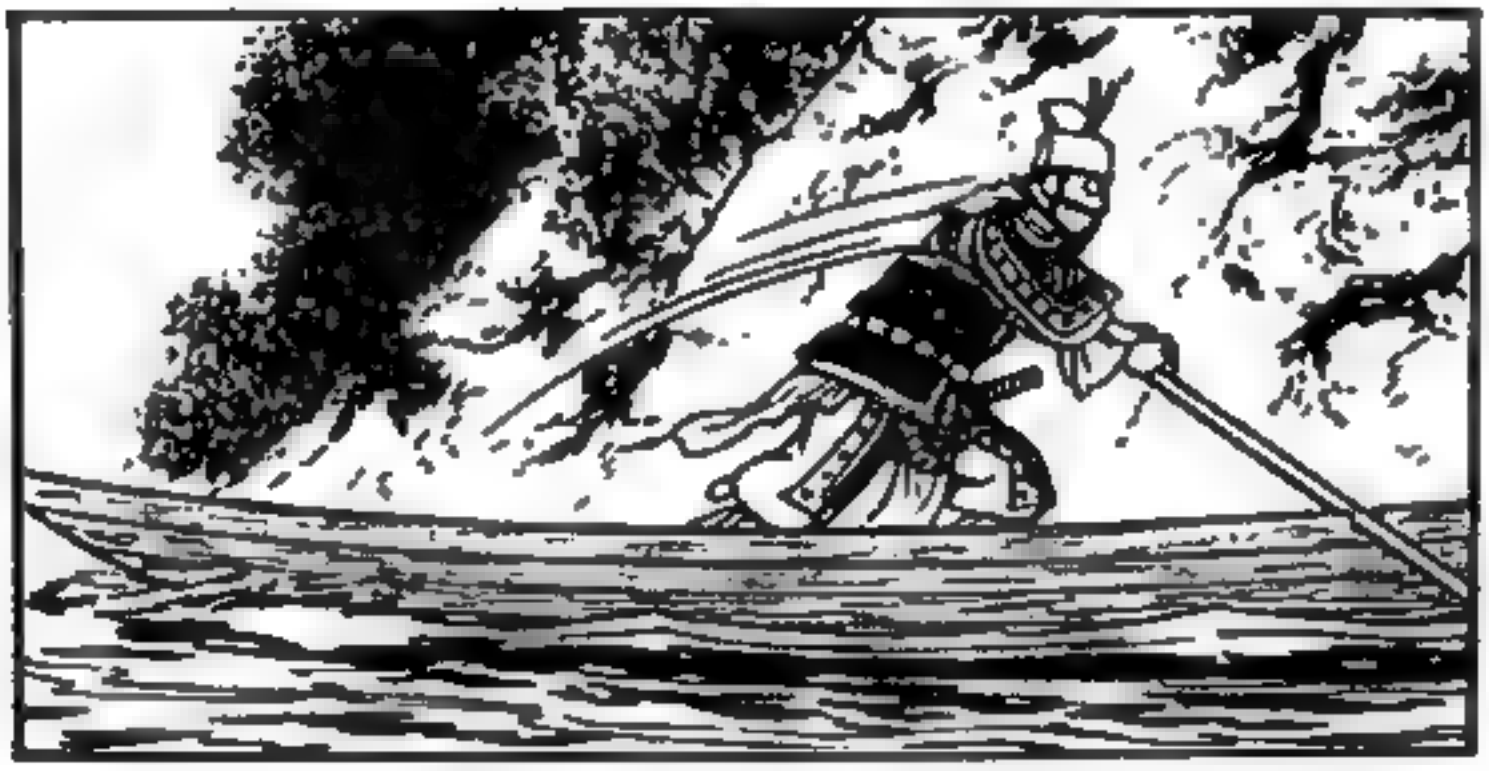




AGHHH!




HM?



AHH-

THE MAN WHO JUMPED INTO THE WATER AFTER PANG DE WAS ZHOU CANG, WHO WAS SECOND TO NONE IN SWIMMING AMONG THE SHU TROOPS

THE TWO WARRIORS GRAPPLED EACH OTHER BELOW THE SURFACE.

BUT PANG DE PROVI D TO BE NO MATCH FOR ZHOU CANG UNDI R-WATLR. PANG DE WAS CAUGHT AT LAST.

HOW DARE YOU UTTER THOSE WORDS AS A COMMANDER, WHEN MANY OF YOUR MEN FOUGHT TO THEIR DEATHS?

I BEG OF YOU! PLEASE SPARE ME MY LIFE!

TAKE HIM AWAY!

EXECUTING YOU WOULD BE AS POINTLESS AS EXECUTING A MUTT. IMPRISON THIS COWARD AT JINGZHOU!

NEXT!

MOVE IT!

AH, SO IT'S YOU, PANG DE...

...

NO MAN CAN POSSIBLY DISPUTE YOUR HONOUR AFTER YOUR FINAL STAND. CAN I CONVINCE YOU TO DIRECT THAT VALOUR OF YOURS TO THE SERVICE OF MY LORD?

LONG AGO WHEN YOU TEMPORARILY SERVED MY LORD, I HEARD YOU FORCIBLY MADE YOUR WAY THROUGH SEVERAL PASSES AND TRAVELLED OVER A THOUSAND LI TO REUNITE WITH LIU BEI.

ALLOW ME TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION WITH ANOTHER QUESTION. IF YOU WERE IN MY POSITION, WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO SERVE THE KING OF WEI?

.....

CAN SUCH A BOND BE OVERTURNED IN ONE DAY? IF YOU UNDERSTAND, YOU WILL KILL ME NOW BEFORE I BECOME A THREAT TO SHU ONCE AGAIN.

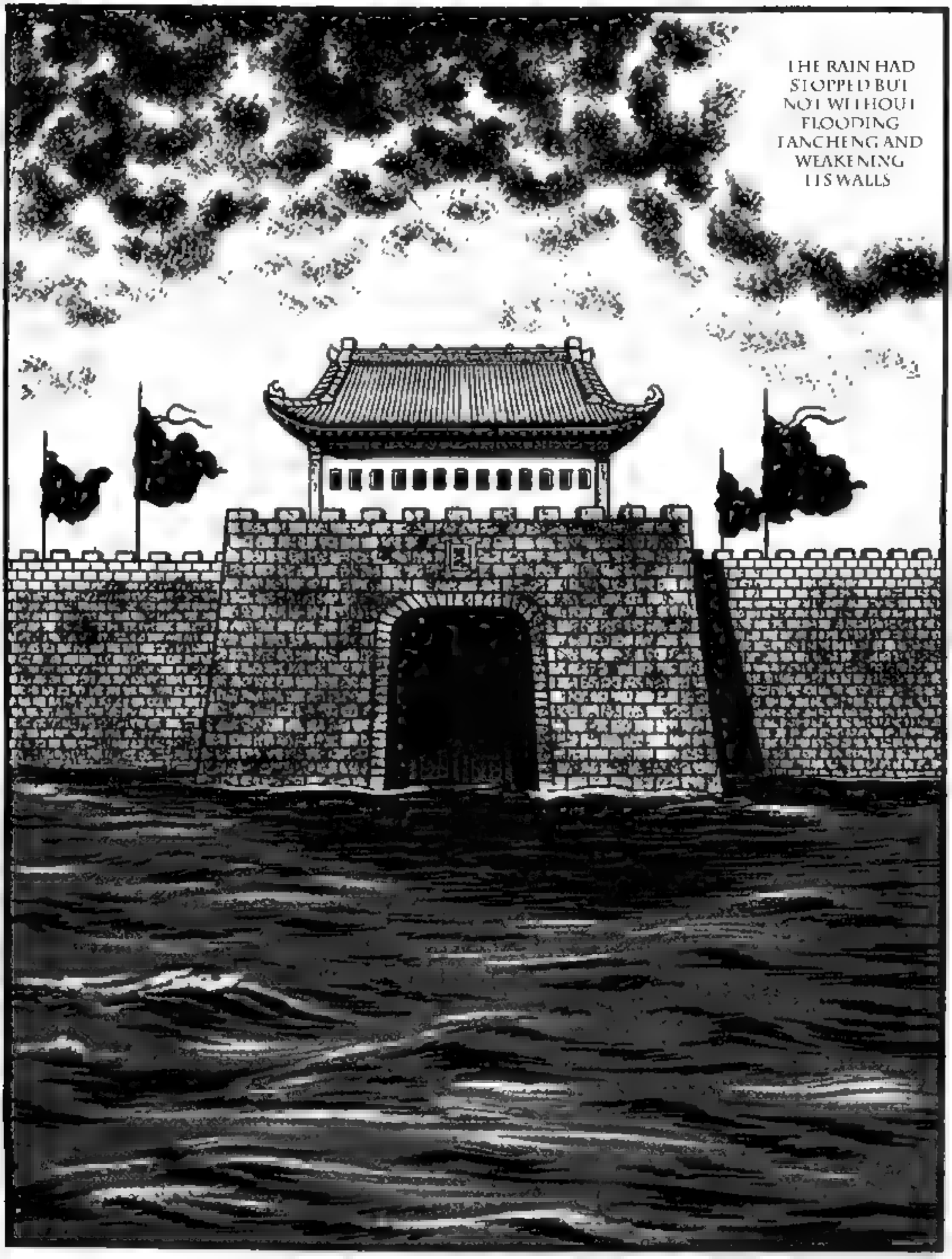
I WILL EXECUTE YOU WITH MY OWN HANDS.

YES, I UNDERSTAND. I TOO, WOULD HAVE PICKED DEATH IF I WERE IN YOUR POSITION.

AHH, TO DIE BY THE HANDS OF THE GREAT GUAN YU... THANK YOU FOR BESTOWING ME THE GREAT HONOUR.

AND SO, PANG DE WELCOMED HIS DEATH AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF FANCHENG.

DOCTOR AND PATIENT



THE GARRISON HAD LOST NEARLY ALL ITS WILL TO RESIST
THEIR ONLY SOLACE WAS THE FACT THAT THE FLOOD HAD ALSO FORCED GUAN YU TO MOVE HIS CAMPS FOR HIGHER GROUNDS FARTHER AWAY

HMM... I'VE BEEN FEARING THIS...

SIR, FANCHENG IS DOOMED. THE ONLY THING LEFT UP IN THE AIR IS WHETHER WE CHOOSE TO STARVE TO DEATH IN IT OR TRY TO MAKE AN ESCAPE ON BOATS AT NIGHT.

WHAT!? YOU CANNOT ABANDON THE CITY, SIR!

VERY WELL, PREPARE THE BOATS!

I HEAR OTHER SOUTHERN LANDS HAVE BEEN HIT WITH FLOODS, CAUSING FAMINES AND PEASANT REVOLTS FOR GUAN YU TO STRUGGLE WITH AS WELL.

THIS FLOOD WILL NATURALLY SUBSIDE IN JUST 10 DAYS!

FALLING, PERHAPS, BUT NOT FALLEN, SIR.

BUT FANCHENG IS ON THE VERGE OF FALLING.

AS THE COUSIN TO THE KING OF WEI, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT YOUR ACTIONS CARRY GREAT INFLUENCE FOR US ALL.

GUAN YU HAS NOT TURNED AROUND TO DEAL WITH THE AFORE-MENTIONED UPRISINGS YET BECAUSE HE FEARS WE MAY HIT HIS UNDEFENDED REAR.

ABANDONING FANCHENG NOW IS TO GIVE UP ALL WEI LANDS SOUTH OF THE YELLOW RIVER. HOW CAN YOU LOOK HIS HIGHNESS IN THE FACE AGAIN AFTER SUCH A SHAMEFUL FAILURE?

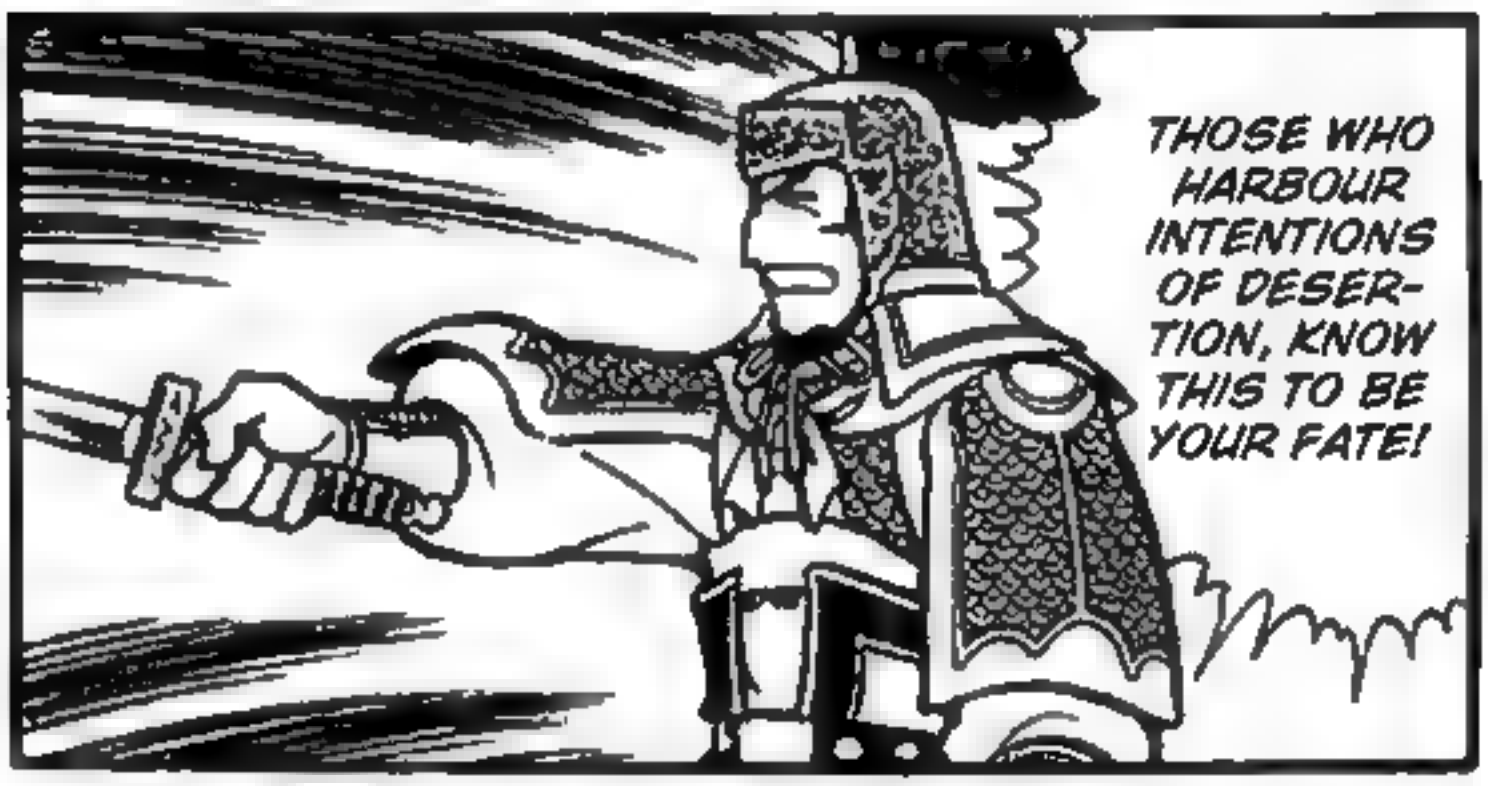
THANK YOU FOR REMINDING ME MY DUTIES. I WAS ABOUT TO COMMIT A GREAT ERR IF NOT FOR YOUR ADVICE.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
YES, SIR!
BRING OUT MY HORSE ON THE RAMPARTS!

HEAR YE!
HEAR YE!

LET THIS BE A SIGN OF MY RESOLVE!

THE KING OF WEI HAS TRUSTED ME TO DEFEND THE SOUTH-LANDS AND SO I WILL PROTECT THIS CITY WITH MY LIFE!

GULP...
AGHH!


THOSE WHO HARBOUR INTENTIONS OF DESER-TION, KNOW THIS TO BE YOUR FATE!

WE WILL DEFEND THE CITY UNTIL OUR VERY LAST BREATHS.
U-UNDER-STOOD, GENERAL...

WHEN WORD GOT OUT THAT GUAN YU HAD DESTROYED WEI'S 7 ELITE DIVISIONS, CAPTURED HIS COMMANDER YU JIN ALIVE, AND EXECUTED PANG DE, THE PEOPLE OF THE REALM WERE ONCE AGAIN STRUCK WITH FEAR AND AWE BY GUAN YU

HOWEVER, THE GREAT VICTORY DID NOTHING TO CLEAR THE HEAVY MOOD AT GUAN YU'S CAMPS.

THE ARROW WOUND HE RECEIVED SEEMED TO HAVE TAKEN A SUDDEN TURN FOR THE WORSE, AND THE FEARED GENERAL NOW LAY IN BED WITH A HIGH FEVER
THE CAUSE WAS GUAN YU'S WORSENING HEALTH
THE SOLDIERS FRANTICALLY SEARCHED FOR A GOOD DOCTOR
FORTUNATELY A LONE WANDERING DOCTOR HAPPENED TO VISIT

YES, THE NAME IS HUA TUO.

...

YOU'RE A DOCTOR?

YES.

THANK HEAVENS. PLEASE SEE MY FATHER INSIDE.

HUA TUO? I THINK I'VE HEARD OF THAT NAME BEFORE...

FATHER, A DOCTOR NAMED HUA TUO HAS WISHED TO EXAMINE YOUR CONDITION.

YES, THAT WOULD BE ME, SIR.

IF MEMORY SERVES ME CORRECT... HUA TUO'S A RENOWNED DOCTOR IN WU. ARE YOU REALLY HIM?

THERE ARE NO BORDERS FOR DOCTORS, GENERAL. ONLY PATIENTS.

TO THINK A WU DOCTOR WOULD COME TO TREAT ME OF ALL PEOPLE...

YES.

LET US PAUSE OUR GAME OF GO FOR THE MOMENT, MA LIANG.

I SEE. THEN PLEASE TREAT ME AS YOU SEE FIT.

OH DEAR. YOUR ENTIRE ARM WILL ROT IF THIS IS LEFT ALONE. I MUST CHISEL AWAY AT THE BONE AND REMOVE THE POISONED TISSUE.

THIS IS THE WOUND.

GO AT IT, THEN.

YES.

SO YOU'RE CONFIDENT YOU CAN TREAT THIS?

WHAT'S THAT FOR?

RIGHT AWAY, SIR.

THERE IS NO NEED FOR THAT.

SCRAPING AWAY AT THE BONE IS... DISCOMFORTING, TO SAY THE LEAST. THIS IS TO FASTEN YOUR ARM TO PREVENT YOUR ARM FROM FLINCHING IN PAIN.

AS YOU WISH, SIR.

WHAT WARRIOR BRAVES THE ENEMY'S SPEAR BUT FEARS THE DOCTOR'S BLADE?

SCRAPE...

SCRAPE...

SCRAPE...

SCRAPE...

I WAS ABLE TO SLEEP WELL WITHOUT A FEVER LAST NIGHT AND MY SORES HAVE FADED AWAY.

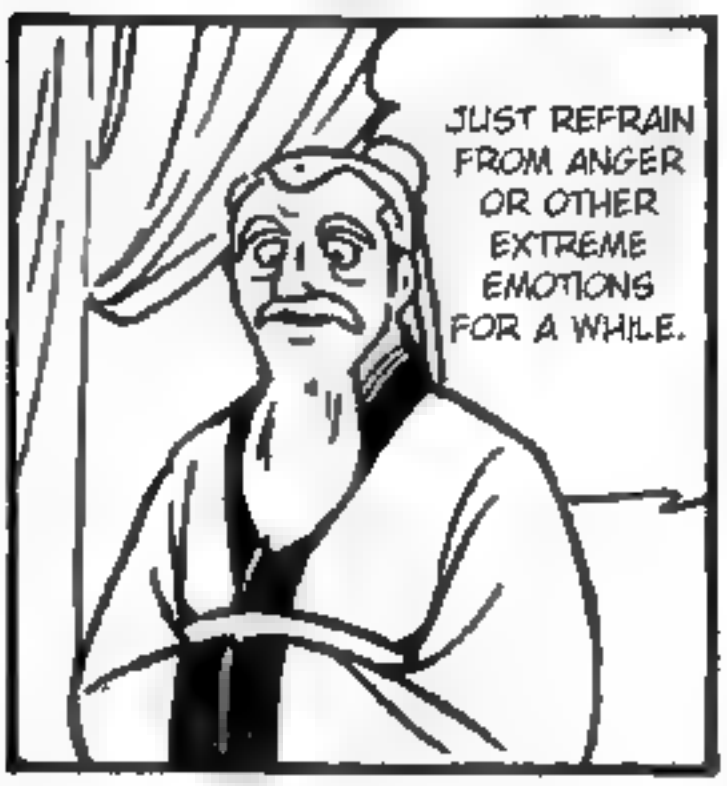
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, SIR?

IN ALL MY YEARS, I HAVE NEVER TREATED A PATIENT SUCH AS YOU, GENERAL.

YOU ARE TRULY THE GREATEST DOCTOR IN THIS WORLD.

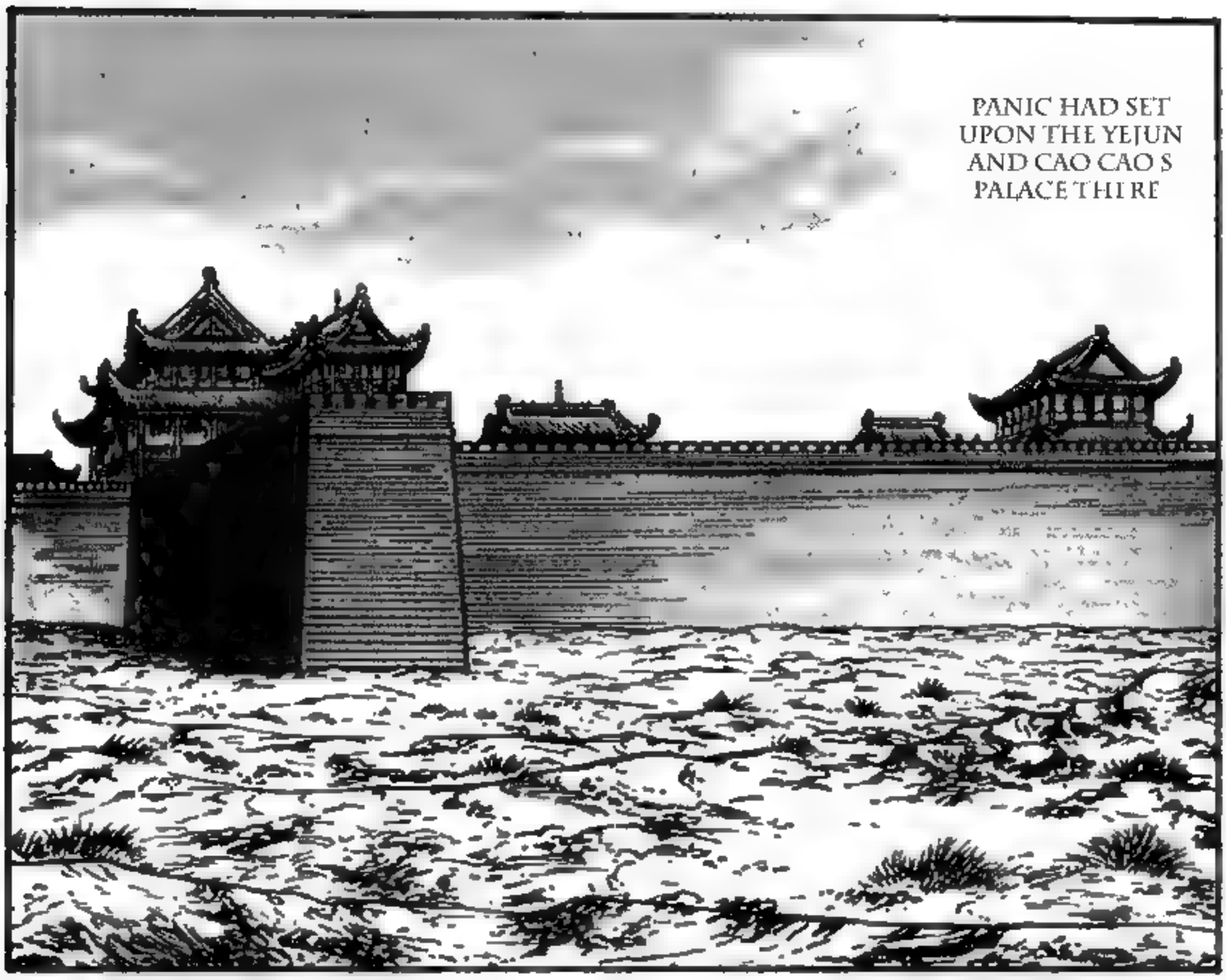
ANY FURTHER PRESCRIP-TIONS?

THE GREATEST DOCTOR TREATING THE GREATEST PATIENT? HAHA, IT IS NO WONDER THEN THAT MY AILMENT HAS FLED.
YOU ARE TRULY THE GREATEST PATIENT IN THE WORLD.


JUST REFRAIN FROM ANGER OR OTHER EXTREME EMOTIONS FOR A WHILE.

AND THUS, HUA TUO LEFT GUAN YU'S CAMPS IN SEARCH OF OTHER PATIENTS

DELIBERATION AT JIANYE



WHAT'LL HAPPEN NOW...?

THAT'S NOT ALL, 7 WHOLE DIVISIONS WERE WIPED OUT CLEAN!

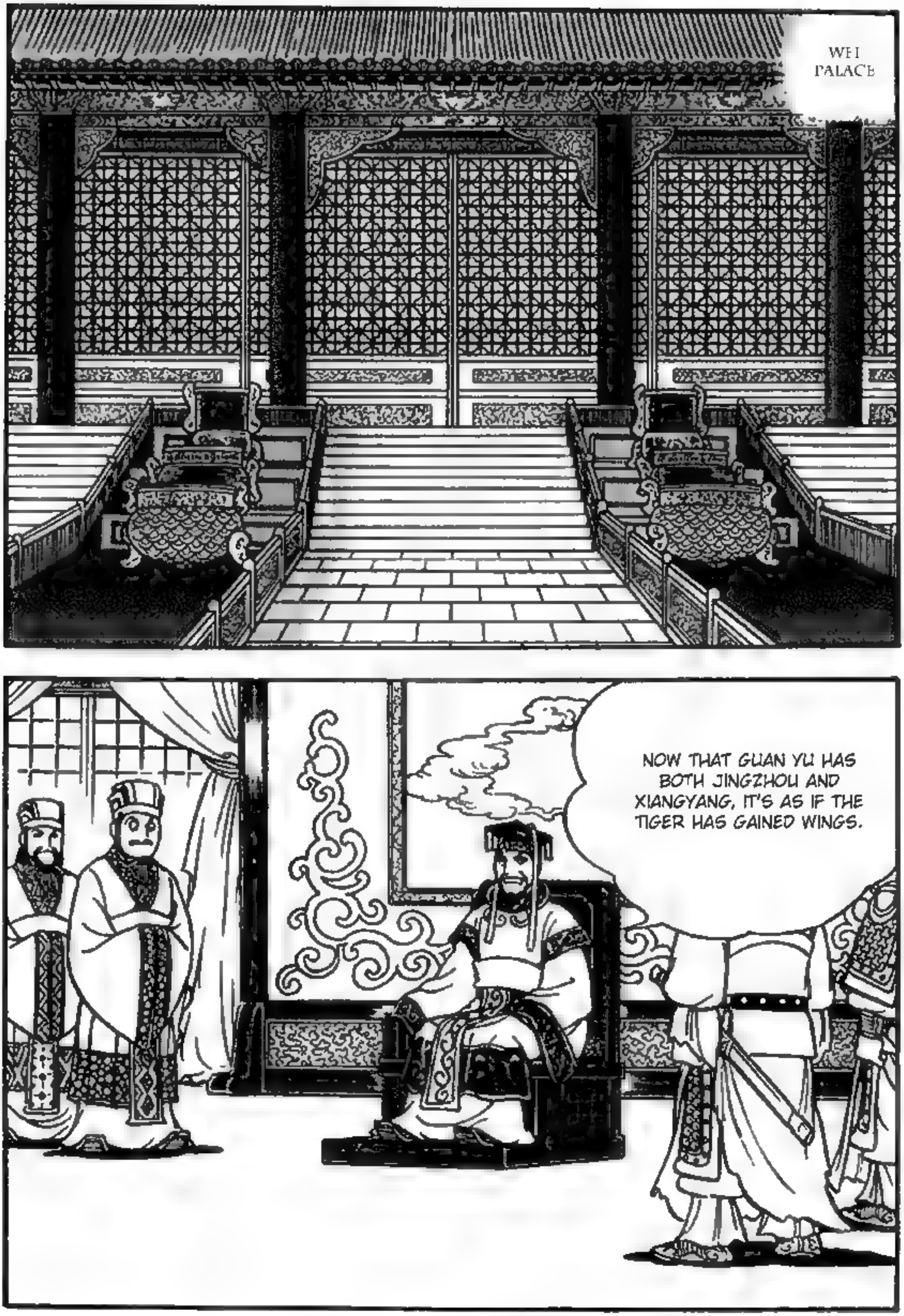
DID YOU HEAR? GENERAL YU JIN WAS CAPTURED ALIVE AND PANG DE EXECUTED BY GUAN YU!

THE LAST THING I WANT IS TO BE CAUGHT IN A WARZONE.

OH BOY, WE BETTER START PACKING IF THAT'S TRUE...

SOME SAY GUAN YU WILL LEAD HIS ARMY AND STORM YEJUN!

EEK!


WEI
PALACE
NOW THAT GUAN YU HAS BOTH JINGZHOU AND XIANGYANG, IT'S AS IF THE TIGER HAS GAINED WINGS.

ABSO-LUTELY NOT, SIR!

AND WITH 7 WHOLE DIVISIONS LOST, THE MORALE OF OUR TROOPS IS LOW AND I FEAR FOR THE SAFETY OF XUCHANG. WHAT DO YOU ALL THINK ABOUT A POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF THE CAPITAL?

WHY DO YOU DISAGREE SO STRONGLY, SIMA YI?

FORCE WU TO ACTION?

INSTEAD OF PANICKING, WE MUST FORCE WU TO MOVE!

OUR 7 DIVISIONS WERE LOST TO A FLOOD, NOT TO GUAN YU. OUR ARMY IS NOT AS WEAK AS OUR ENEMIES WOULD LIKE TO THINK.

HMM...

SUN QUAN WILL BE NOT ANY MORE PLEASED THAN YOU ARE BY GUAN YU'S CONQUESTS. HE WILL FEEL SUITABLY THREATENED ENOUGH NOW THAT WE CAN COAX HIM INTO ACTION.

OF COURSE, WU WILL ONLY CONSENT AS LONG AS WE CONTINUE TO FIGHT GUAN YU.

I LIKE YOUR PLAN. SEND A MESSENGER AT ONCE.

ALLOW ME, SIR!

WHO HERE CAN HOLD OFF GUAN YU?

I WILL NOT FAIL.

AH, THANK YOU FOR STEPPING UP TO THE TASK, XU HUANG.

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.

TAKE 50,000 TROOPS AND LU QIAN AS YOUR SECOND-IN-COMMAND. MAKE CAMP AT YANGLING HILL NEAR XIANGYANG AND ATTACK IF WU MOBILIZES ITS ARMY AS WELL.

XU HUANG QUICKLY MARCHED FOR YANGLING HILL

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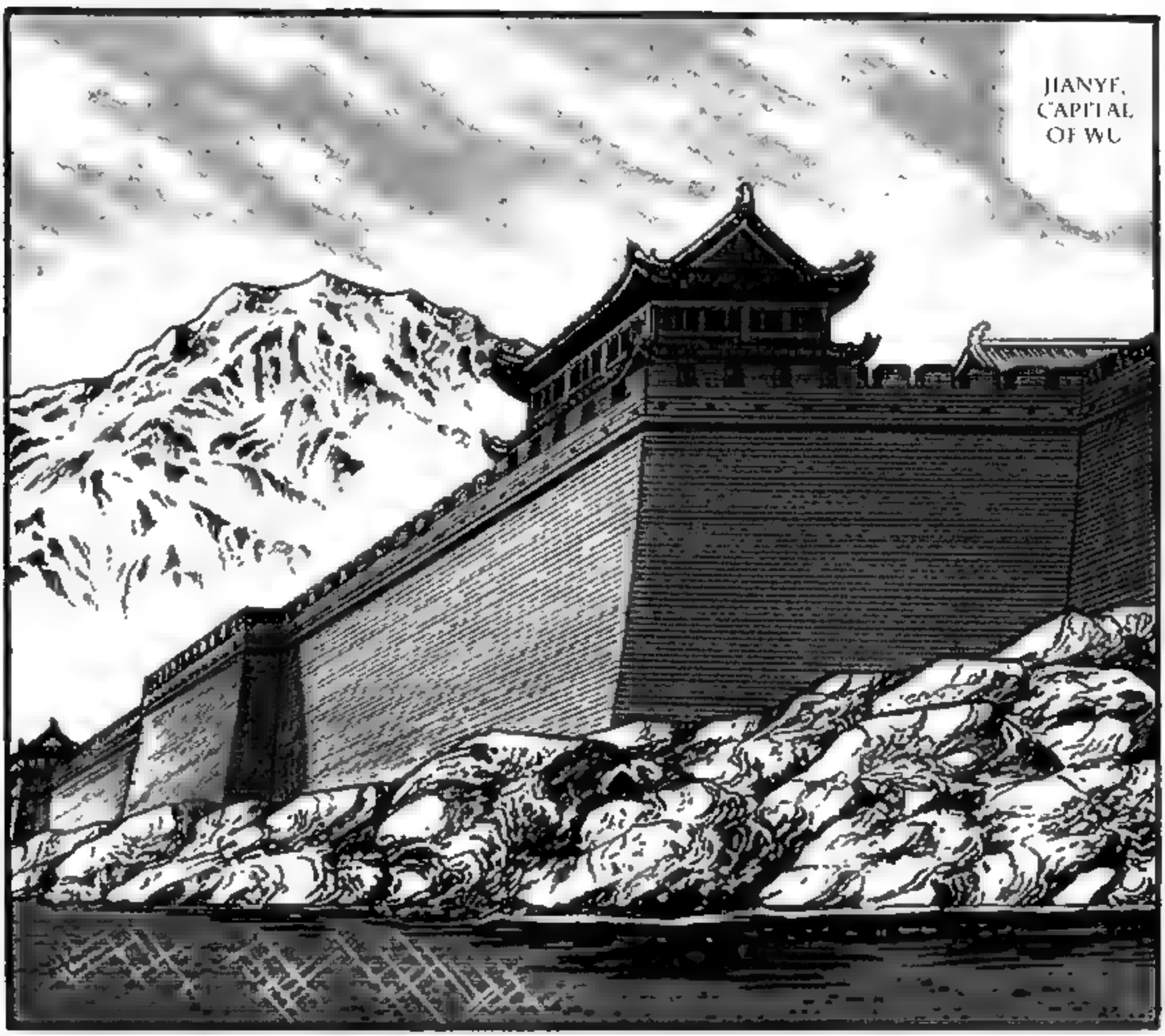
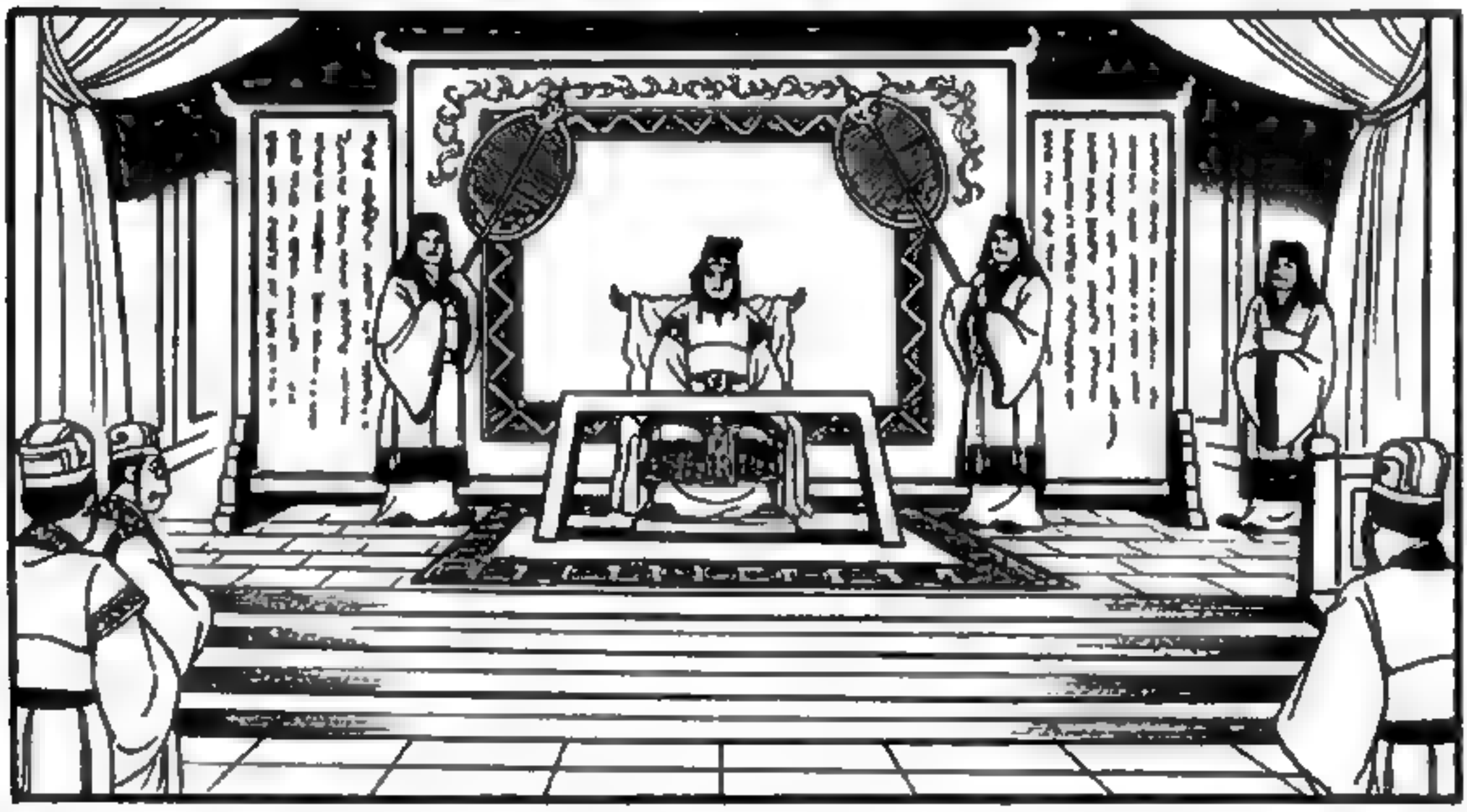

JIANYE,
CAPITAL
OF WU



EXACTLY! IT IS PATENTLY CLEAR TO ALL THAT THIS IS JUST A LAST-DITCH ATTEMPT TO SAVE FANCHENG AT THE COST OF WU LIVES!

DO NOT BE SWAYED SO EASILY AT CAO CAO'S OFFER TO SPLIT THE POTENTIAL CONQUESTS, MY LORD.

ATTACK XUZHOU?

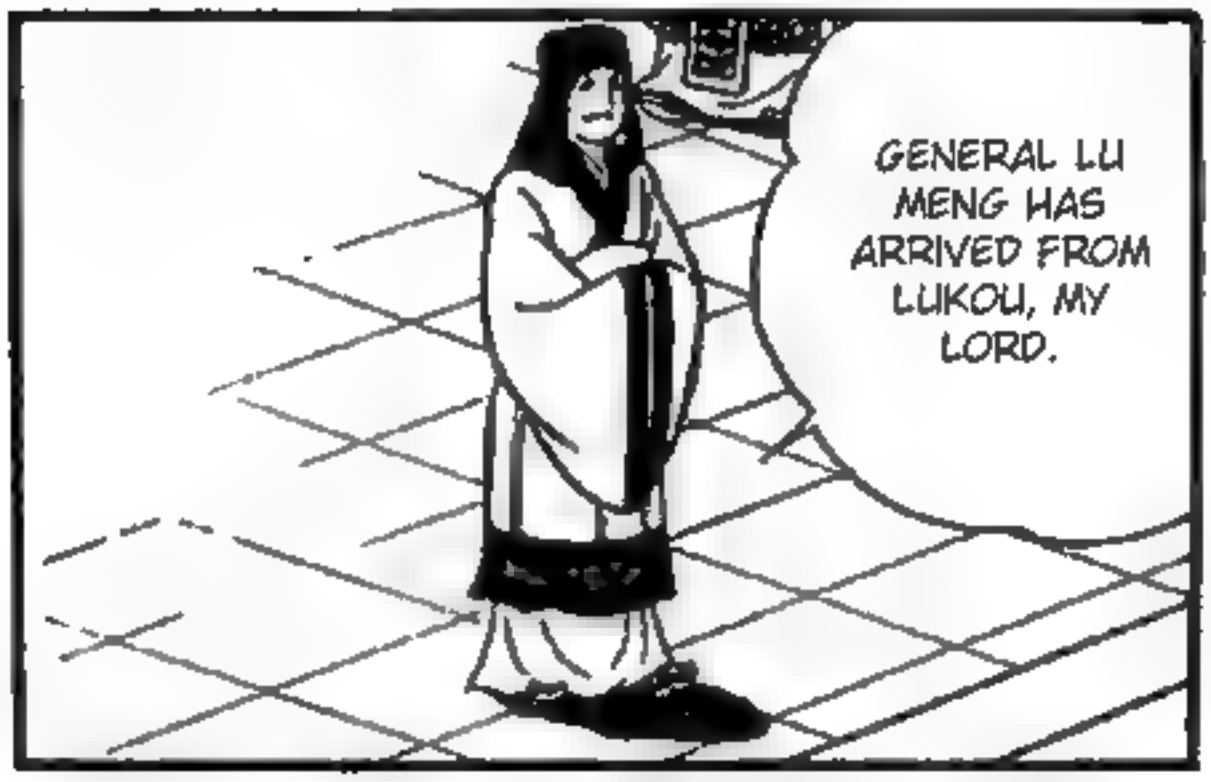
IN FACT, I SAY WE TAKE XUZHOU FROM WEI INSTEAD!

RABBLE RABBLE

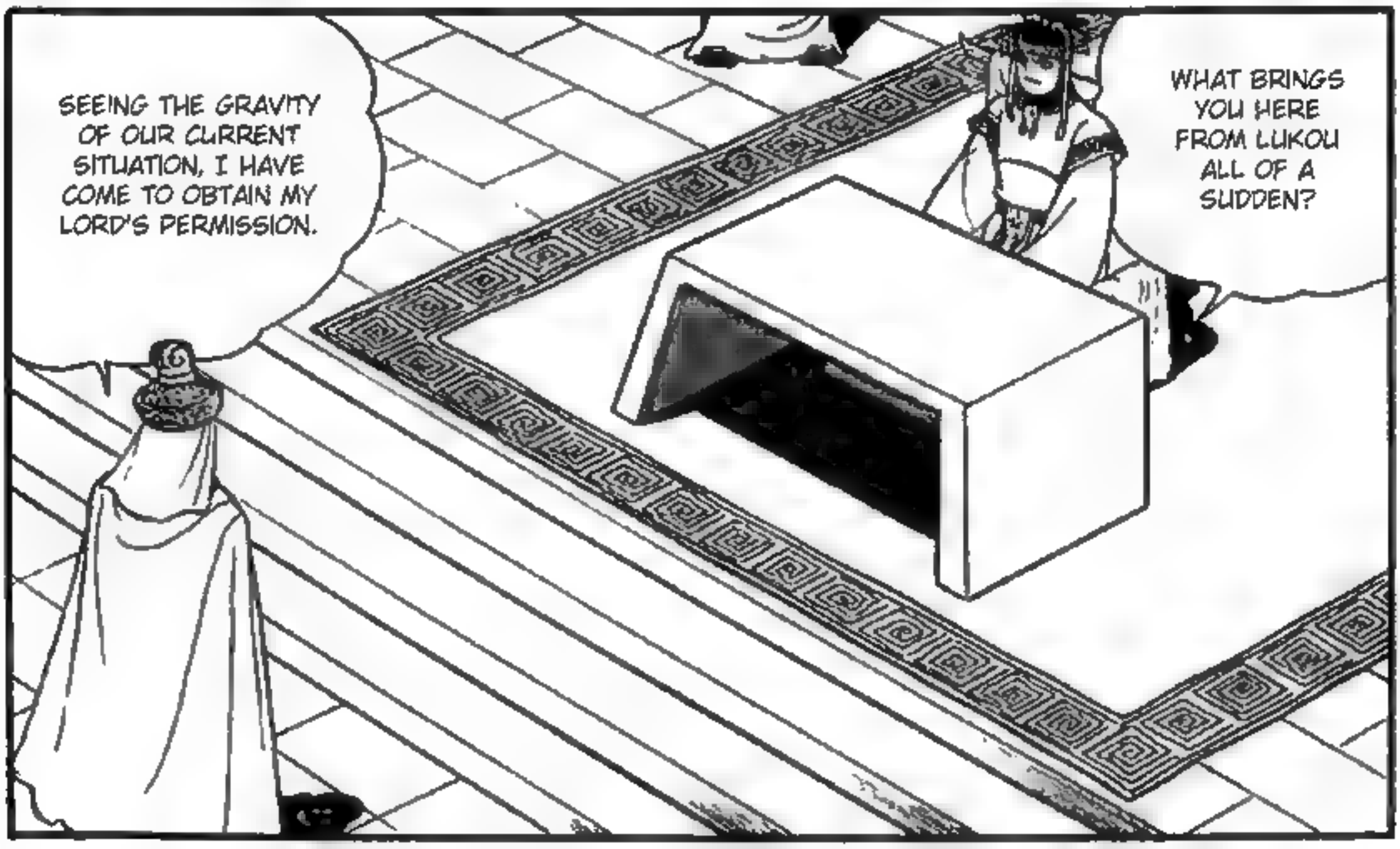
BICKER BICKER

YOU SAY THAT LIKE CAO CAO IS AN ALLY WE CAN TRUST!

YOU FOOL, DO YOU NOT REALIZE JUST HOW DANGEROUS GUAN YU IS!? WE MUST JOIN HANDS WITH WEI FOR NOW!


GENERAL LU MENG HAS ARRIVED FROM LUKOU, MY LORD.

WHICH PATH IS TRULY THE RIGHT ONE FOR WU TO TAKE...?


SEEING THE GRAVITY OF OUR CURRENT SITUATION, I HAVE COME TO OBTAIN MY LORD'S PERMISSION.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE FROM LUKOU ALL OF A SUDDEN?

GUAN YU ARRO-GANTLY THINKS THE ENTIRE SOUTHLANDS ARE HIS NOW THAT XIANGYANG IS IN HIS HANDS AND FANCHENG ABOUT TO FALL.

MY PERMIS-SION?

YOU'RE CONFIDENT YOU CAN TAKE IT?

IF MY LORD WISHES TO TAKE JINGZHOU, THEN THERE IS NO BETTER TIME TO STRIKE THAN NOW BEFORE FANCHENG FALLS. ONCE I TAKE JINGZHOU, I CAN ISOLATE GUAN YU'S ARMY ON THE FIELD AND TAKE HIM PRISONER. SO PLEASE, MY LORD, GRANT ME THE PERMISSION TO MOUNT AN ATTACK ON JINGZHOU.

WHAT SAY YOU TO A POSSIBLE ATTACK ON XUZHOU INSTEAD?

A JINGZHOU WITHOUT GUAN YU MAY AS WELL BE AN UNDEFENDED CITY.

HMM...

THUS, IT WOULD BE WISER TO FOCUS ON TAKING JINGZHOU, WHICH CAN BE MORE EASILY DEFENDED WITH OUR SUPERIOR NAVY.

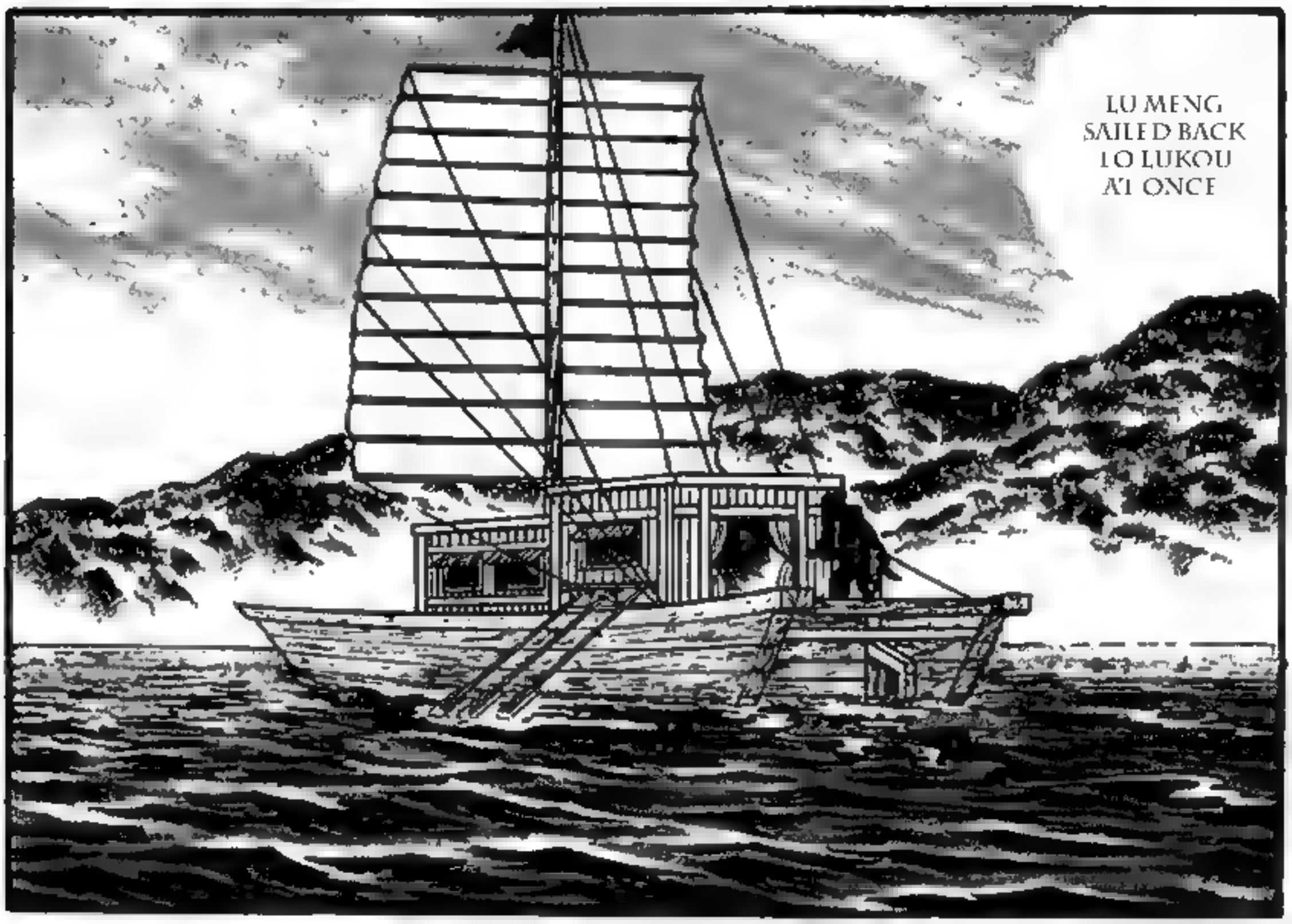
XUZHOU'S DEFENSES ARE WEAK AND FAR REMOVED FROM CAO CAO'S POWER CENTER IN THE NORTH. ONCE TAKING IT, HOWEVER, ITS SURROUNDING FLAT TERRAIN WILL REQUIRE A STRONG CAVALRY-ARM TO HOLD IT, WHICH WE ARE ADMITTEDLY INFERIOR TO WEI.

YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO ACT FREELY.

LONG AGO, ZHOU YU APPOINTED LU SU TO DEFEND OUR MOST IMPORTANT FORTRESS AT LUKOU. AND WHEN LU SU RETIRED, HE SAW NO BETTER CANDIDATE THAN YOU TO DEFEND THE CRITICAL FORT. I WILL NOT DOUBT YOUR SKILLS NOR THE JUDGMENT OF THE PREDECESSORS WHO CHOSE YOU.

YES, SIR!

THE TIME FOR DELIBERATION IS OVER. IT IS NOW TIME TO ACT!


LU MENG
SAILED BACK
TO LUKOU
AT ONCE

HE QUICKLY
DISPATCHED
SCOUTS TO
GAUGE
JINGZHOU'S
DEFENSES

YES, THEY ARE DESIGNED TO ALERT JINGZHOU AND GUAN YU AT THE FIRST SIGN OF ACTIVITY ALONG THE WU-SHU BORDERS.

WHAT!? A SERIES OF SMOKE BEACONS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED!?

YES, JINGZHOU'S DEFENSES ARE TRULY FORMIDABLE.

IF THEY'VE EVEN SET UP BEACONS, I ASSUME THE GARRISON AT JINGZHOU IS ALSO FULLY PREPARED?

I CAN'T JUST GIVE UP NOW AFTER BOASTING TO MY LORD... WHAT CAN I DO...?

THIS WAS OUTSIDE LU MENG'S CALCULATIONS

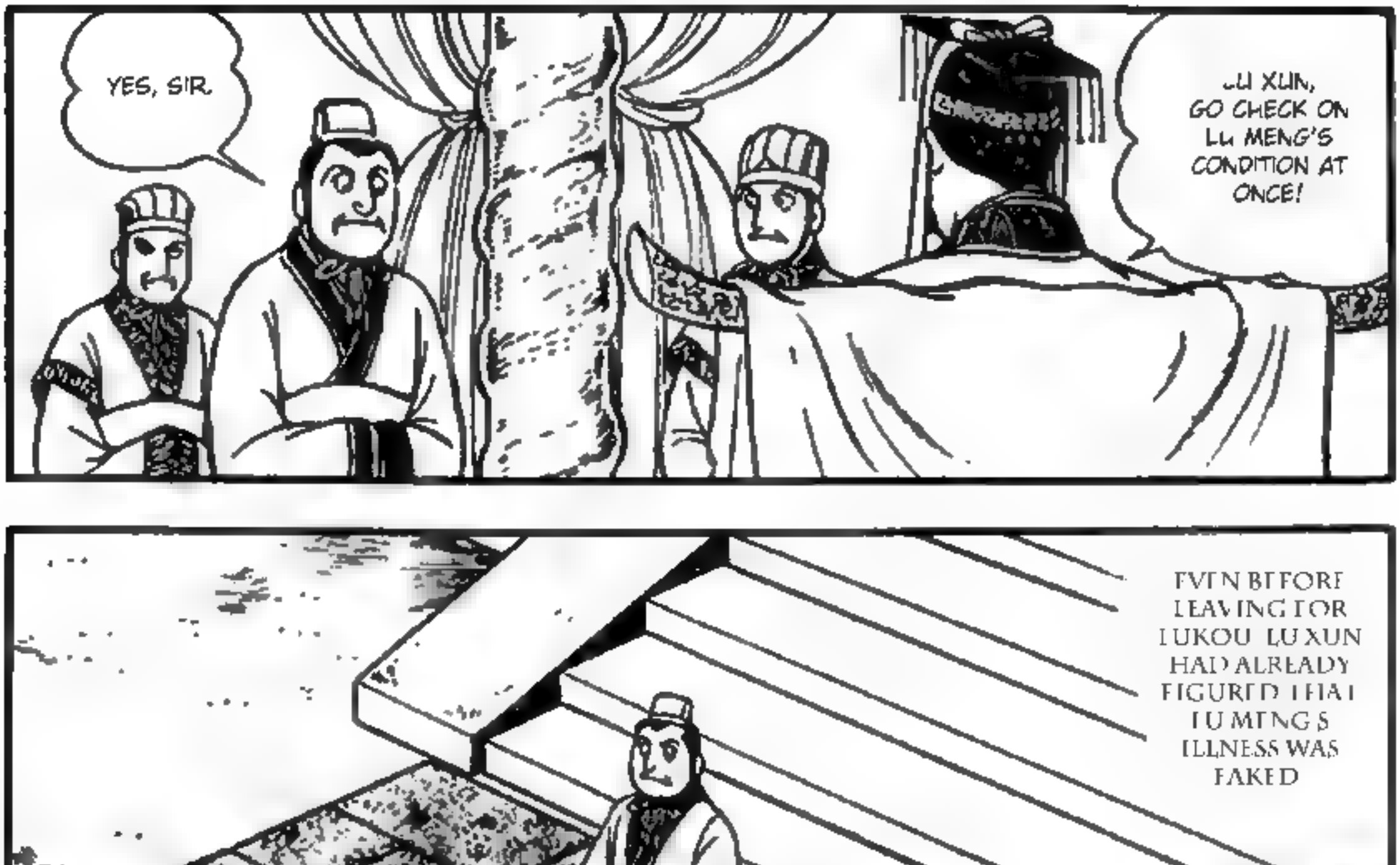
CURSE THAT GUAN YU! HE ALREADY MADE PLANS TO CHECK A POSSIBLE WU ATTACK!

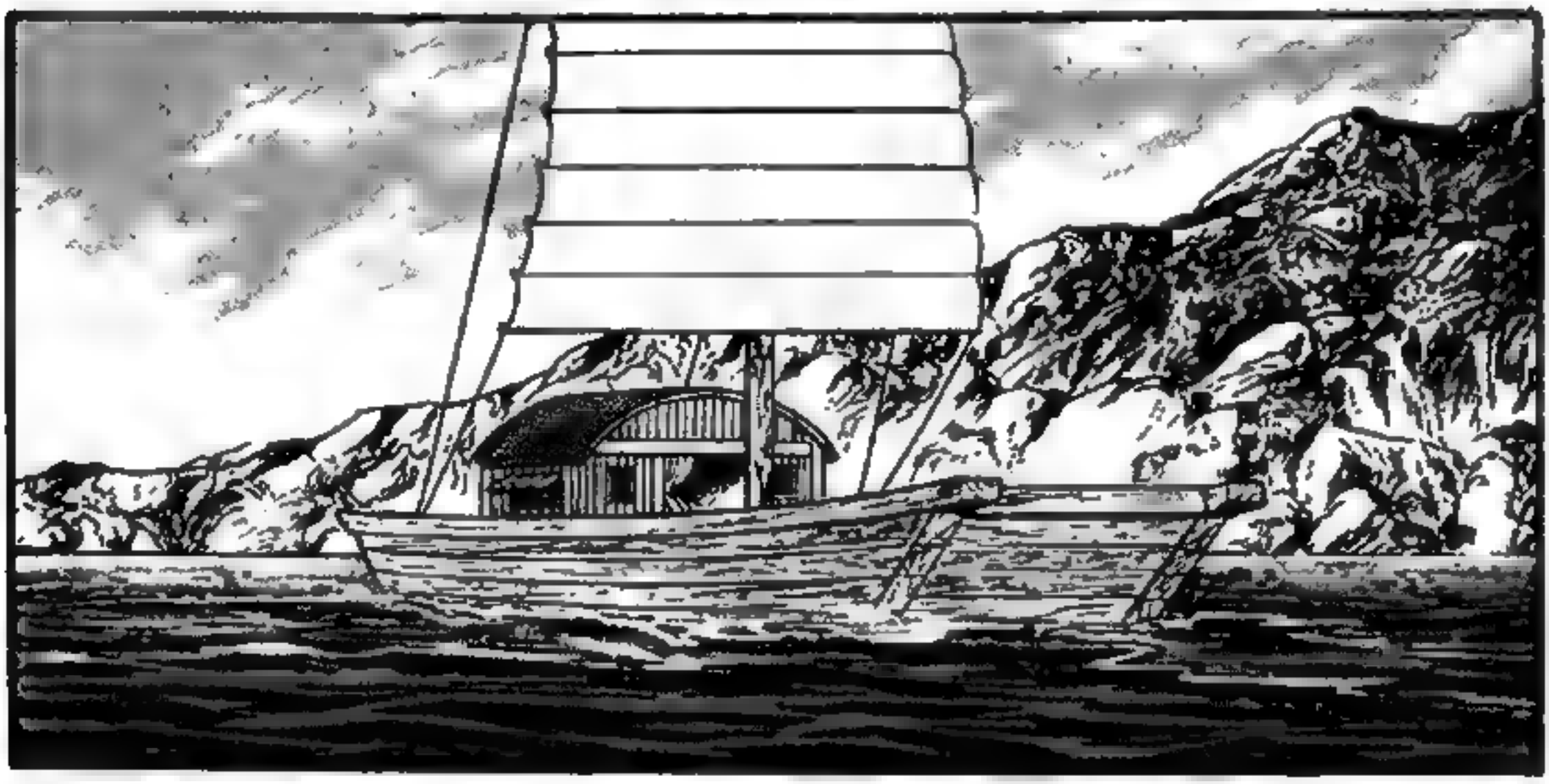
HE HAS APPARENTLY FALLEN ILL, MY LORD.

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH LU MENG? I HEAR HE HASN'T TAKEN ANY ACTION YET.

TO THINK ONE OF MY MOST CAPABLE GENERALS WOULD FALL ILL AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT...

FALLEN ILL?


YES, SIR.
LU XUN, GO CHECK ON LU MENG'S CONDITION AT ONCE!
EVEN BEFORE LEAVING FOR LUKOU LU XUN HAD ALREADY FIGURED THAT LU MENG'S ILLNESS WAS FAKED



REST ASSURED, I KNOW EXACTLY THE CAUSE OF YOUR AILMENT.

I'VE GOT A FEVER AND I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL NAUTIOUS.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING, SIR?

THE CAUSE FOR YOUR SUDDEN ILLNESS IS YOUR UNEXPECTED REALIZATION THAT JINGZHOU'S DEFENSES ARE QUITE SECURE, IS IT NOT?

HM!? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

YOU'VE GOT QUITE A KEEN EYE. IT'S EXACTLY AS YOU SAID.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RETURN TO JIANYE WITH ME ON THE PRE-TENSES THAT YOU'VE GROWN EVEN MORE DEATHLY ILL?

...

I ASSUME GUAN YU MUST HAVE TAKEN SOME SORT OF PRECAUTIONS TO KEEP AN EYE ON US WHILE CONTINUING HIS SIEGE OF FANCHENG. YOUR SHORT-SIGHTED FAILURE TO ANTICIPATE THAT HAS GIVEN YOU QUITE A PAINFUL HEADACHE, AM I CORRECT?

?

HOW CAN HE REST EASY, KNOWING ONE OF WU'S MOST FEARED GENERALS IS EYEING THE SITUATION RIGHT ON THE BORDERS?

HAVE YOU NOT REALIZED WHERE I AM GOING WITH THIS, GENERAL? GUAN YU ONLY KEEPS SUCH A CLOSE WATCH ON LUKOU BECAUSE HE KNOWS YOU ARE HERE.

AS I'VE SAID, RETIRE TO THE CAPITAL ON THE GROUNDS OF FAILING HEALTH AND APPOINT A RATHER OBSCURE MAN TO HOLD LUKOU WHO CAN LOWER GUAN YU'S GUARD.

THEN WHAT CAN I DO?

A BRILLIANT PLAN, LU XUN!

OHHH!

ONCE GUAN YU REALIZES HIS REAR IS NOW SECURE, HE'LL MOVE MORE OF HIS TROOPS TO THE FRONTLINES TO FINISH OFF FANCHENG'S SIEGE, WHICH IS EXACTLY WHEN WE'LL STRIKE!

A WISE CHOICE, SIR.

THEN I WILL SPREAD RUMOURS OF MY GRAVE ILLNESS AND RETIRE TO JIANYE.

GUAN YU AND LU XUN

YES, MY LORD. SEEING THAT JINGZHOU'S DEFENSES WERE TOO SOLID, I'VE DECIDED TO TRY AND SEE IF I CAN LOWER GUAN YU'S GUARD BY FIRST FEIGNING MY ILLNESS.
... ...
YOU WERE FAKING AN ILLNESS!?

THAT'S A GOOD PLAN, BUT I CAN'T JUST HAVE ANY MAN GUARDING LUKOU. WHO DO YOU SUGGEST?

THIS MUST BE FOLLOWED UP WITH SENDING A REPLACEMENT GENERAL TO LUKOU.

FAME AND STATUS IS ALL LU XUN LACKS. HE IS MORE THAN TALENTED ENOUGH FOR THIS TASK.

BUT LU XUN HAS NEITHER THE FAME NOR STATUS TO BE SUITABLE FOR SUCH AN IMPORTANT POSITION. ISN'T A MAN WITH MORE EXPERIENCE NECESSARY?

LU XUN WILL DO, MY LORD.

LU XUN!?

HM...

MOREOVER, AN OBSCURE MAN OF LOW RANK IS PRECISELY WHAT'S REQUIRED IF WE ARE TO SUCCESS-FULLY LOWER GUAN YU'S GUARD.

REST ASSURED, JINGZHOU WILL BE OURS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

VERY WELL, I WILL ACCEPT YOUR RECOM-MENDATION.

I SUPPOSE IT'S HARDLY SURPRISING THAT A GENERAL OF GUAN YU'S CALIBRE HAS FEW OPENINGS TO EXPLOIT...

IN THE MEANTIME, I WILL SPREAD WORD OF MY ILLNESS.

HOW CAN A MAN LIKE ME EVER BE LU MENG'S SUCCESSOR? I SINCERELY ASK THE POST BE GIVEN TO ONE OF MY MORE EXPERIENCED SENIORS.

YOU'RE LEAVING THE DEFENSE OF LUKOU TO ME!?

Y-YES, MY LORD.

THAT'S AN ORDER! YOU ARE NOW THE LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND INSPECTOR OF THE RIGHT DIVISION! REPORT TO LUKOU AT ONCE!

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL! I HOPE YOU WILL SUCCESSFULLY LOWER GUAN YU'S GUARD.

I'M COFIDENT YOU'VE GOT ALL THE TALENT NEEDED FOR THE POST. PLEASE WORK HARD FOR THE SUCCESS OF OUR STATE

...! W-WERE YOU BEHIND MY NEW APPOINT-MENT, SIR?

OF COURSE, SIR. I WILL GIVE MY UTMOST EFFORT.

FINE, LET HIM IN.

YES.

LUKOU'S NEW GENERAL HAS SENT A MESSENGER?

THANK YOU, SIR.

WELCOME TO MY CAMPS.

YES, LU XUN HAS BEEN APPOINTED LIEUTENANT-GENERAL IN CHARGE OF LUKOU NOW.

SO WHAT IS THIS I HEAR ABOUT A NEW REPLACEMENT IN LUKOU?

MY GENERAL HAS SENT ME HERE FOR TWO REASONS. ONE, TO CONGRATULATE SIR ON THE RECENT VICTORY AGAINST WEI, AND TWO, TO FURTHER A CLOSE, AMIABLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO STATES WITH THESE GIFTS. IT WOULD BE AN HONOUR IF YOU ACCEPTED THEM.

I'M AFRAID NOT, FATHER.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF HIM?

LU XUN?

LET ME SEE.

THIS IS HIS LETTER.

HMPH.

THE LETTER WAS WRITTEN IN A HUMBLE TONE ADDRESSING A SUPERIOR.

YES, I WILL GLADLY ACCEPT THE GIFTS.

HAHAHAHA!

YES, SIR.

TREAT OUR GUEST WELL.

THANK YOU, SIR.

PLEASE COME THIS WAY, SIR.

DID YOU SEE THAT MESSEN-GER TREMBLE BEFORE ME?

DOES SUN QUAN NOT REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT LUKOU IS TO WU? APPOINTING A NAMELESS MAN TO DEFEND SUCH A KEY FORT... HAHA, HE'S EVEN MORE FOOLISH THAN I THOUGHT!

YES.

RIGHT AWAY.

BUT SOME EXTRA INTELLIGENCE COULDN'T HURT. SEND SOME SPIES TO SEE WHAT KIND OF FELLOW THIS LU XUN IS.

LUKOU
陸
陸

EXCELLENT, EXCELLENT.

YES, SIR.
HE LAUGHED THAT LOUDLY AFTER READING MY LETTER?

EVERYTHING IS TO BE DONE HALF-ASSED FOR THE MOMENT!

I BEG YOUR PARDON?
FOR THE TIME BEING, IGNORE OVERSEEING THE REGULAR DRILLS.

YES, I SAW NO SIGN OF ANYBODY FOLLOWING RULES.

THE SOLDIERS AT LUKOU ARE DRINKING IN MIDDAY?

AHAHAHA!

HAHA!

EVEN GENERAL LU XUN HIMSELF WAS BUSY WITH WINE AND WOMEN.

YES, FATHER.

AND SINCE MY ARM'S JUST ABOUT FULLY HEALED, IT'S TIME WE FINISH UP THE SIEGE OF FANCHENG. MOBILIZE THE TROOPS.

THERE'S NO NEED TO STATION SO MANY TROOPS TO DEFEND AGAINST WU, ANYMORE.

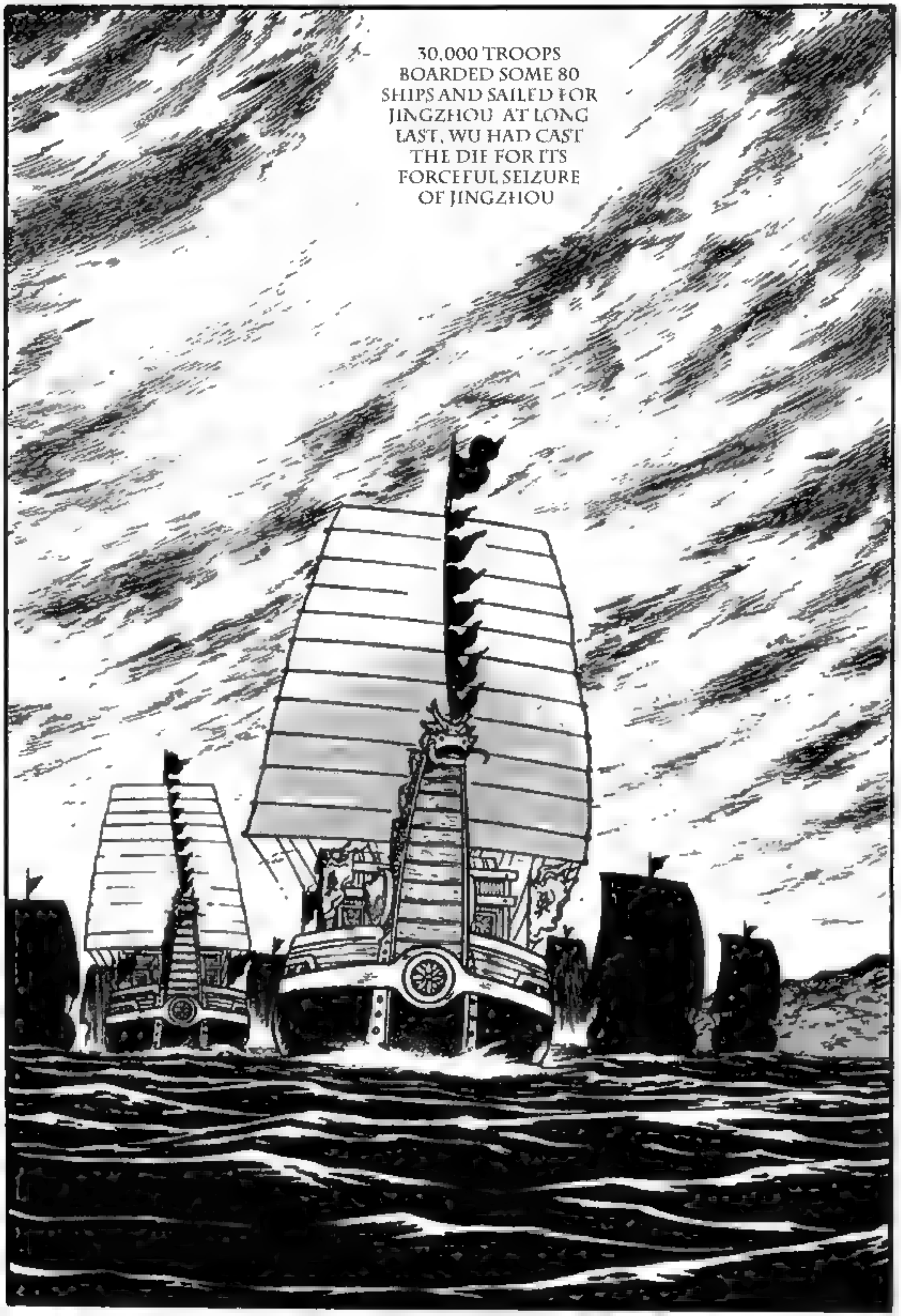
YES, GENERAL LU XUN BELIEVES IT'S NOW TIME TO STRIKE.

GUAN YU HAS FINALLY CALLED MORE TROOPS FROM JINGZHOU TO FANCHENG?

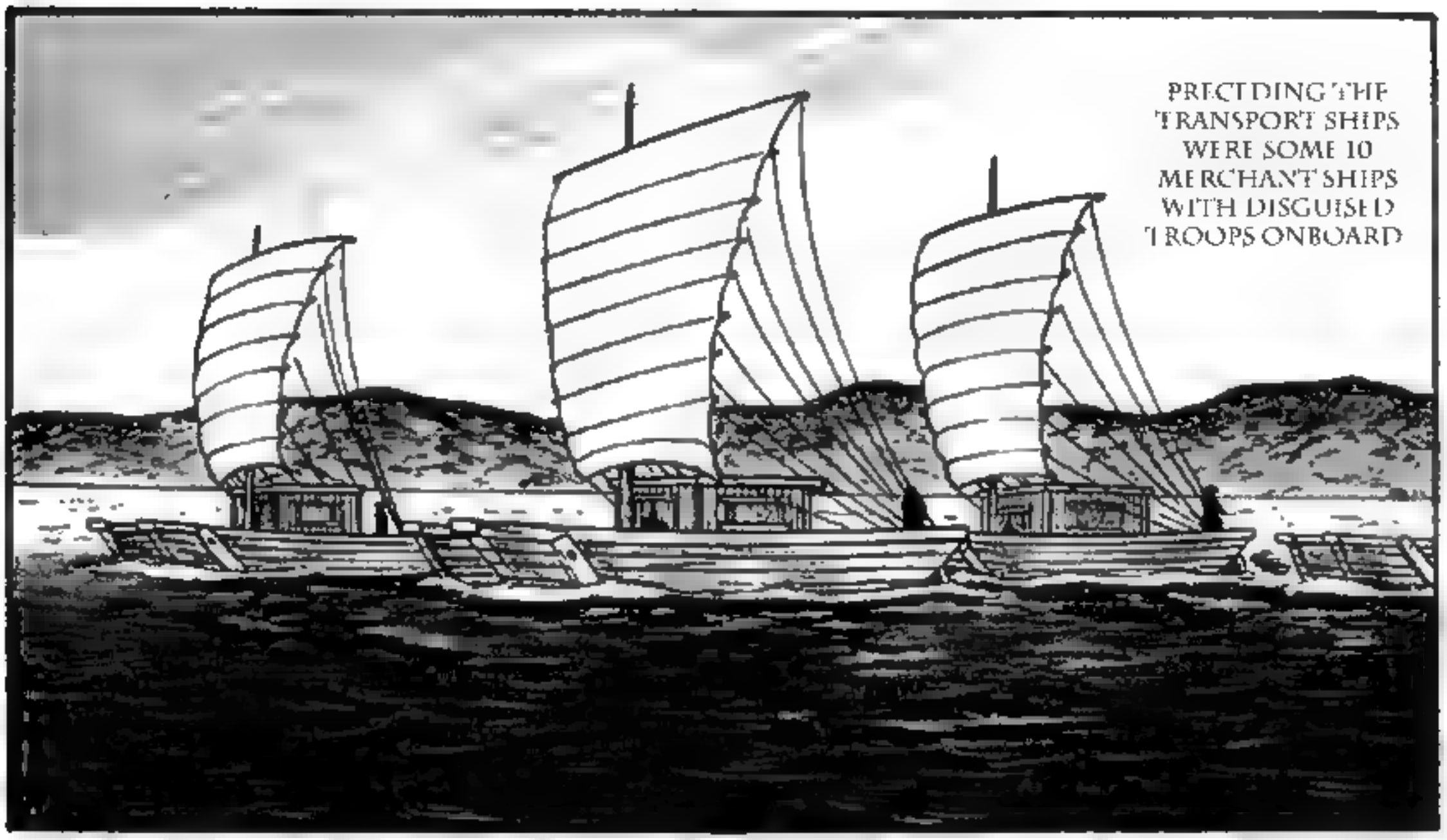
YES, MY LORD.

SPLENDID! LU MENG, COMMAND A FORCE OF 30,000 TROOPS AND SEIZE JINGZHOU AT ONCE!

30,000 TROOPS BOARDED SOME 80 SHIPS AND SAILED FOR JINGZHOU. AT LONG LAST, WU HAD CAST THE DIE FOR ITS FORCEFUL SEIZURE OF JINGZHOU



CAPTURE OF JINGZHOU



HALT! WHO GOES THERE?

THE FIERCE WINDS TONIGHT HAS FORCED US TO DRAW UP OUR SAILS AND DOCK.
WE ARE MERCHANTS WHO TRAVEL UP AND DOWN THIS RIVER TO SELL OUR WARES.

WELL, IT'D BE KIND OF CRUEL TO FORCE THEM OUT IN THESE WINDS...

HMM, WHAT DO WE DO?

PLEASE ALLOW US TO TAKE TEMPORARY SHELTER HERE. A DAY OR TWO IS ALL WE'LL NEED BEFORE WE CAN SAIL AGAIN.

BRING SOME GIFTS FOR THESE KIND GENTLEMEN.

WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL.

FINE, BUT ONLY FOR TONIGHT. THIS IS A RESTRICTED MILITARY ZONE SO YOU MUST SET SAIL ONCE THE SUN RISES.

YES, MASTER.

THIS MAY NOT BE MUCH, BUT WE WOULD BE HONOURED IF YOU WOULD ACCEPT THIS FOOD AND WINE.

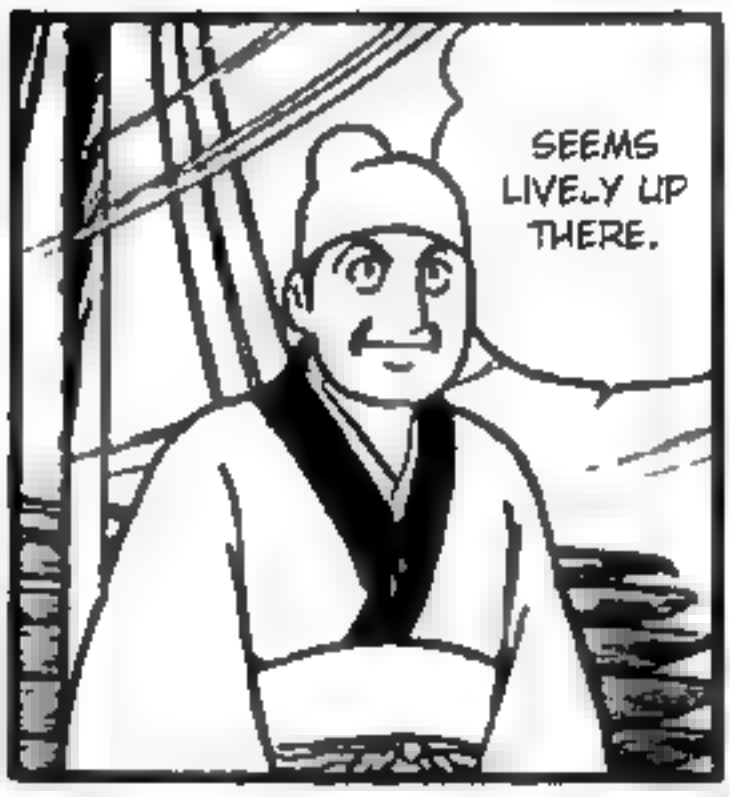
YES, WE'LL BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT THEM!

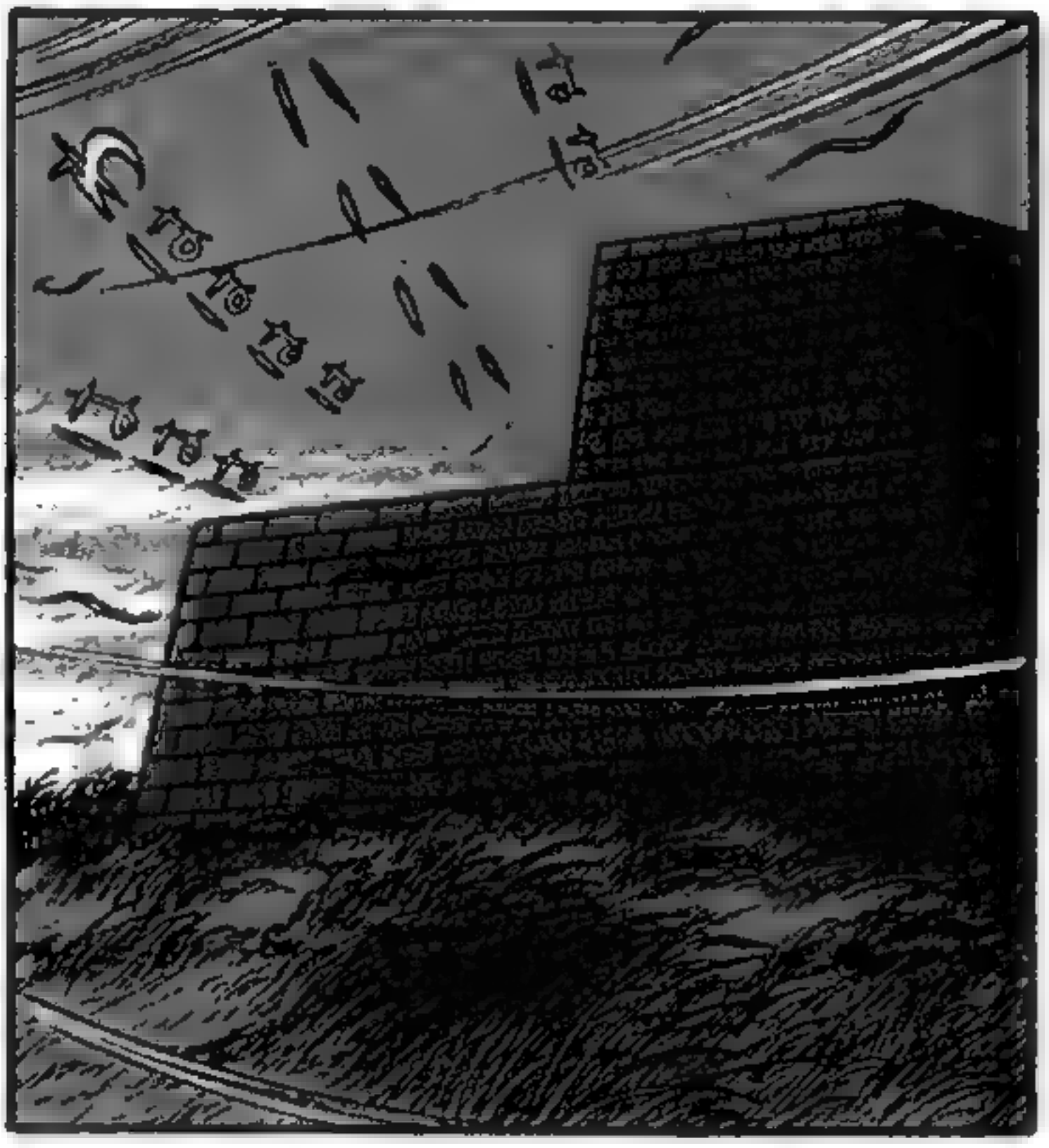
OHH!

GUYS! GUESS WHAT I BROUGHT!

SO LET'S ENJOY OURSELVES TONIGHT!

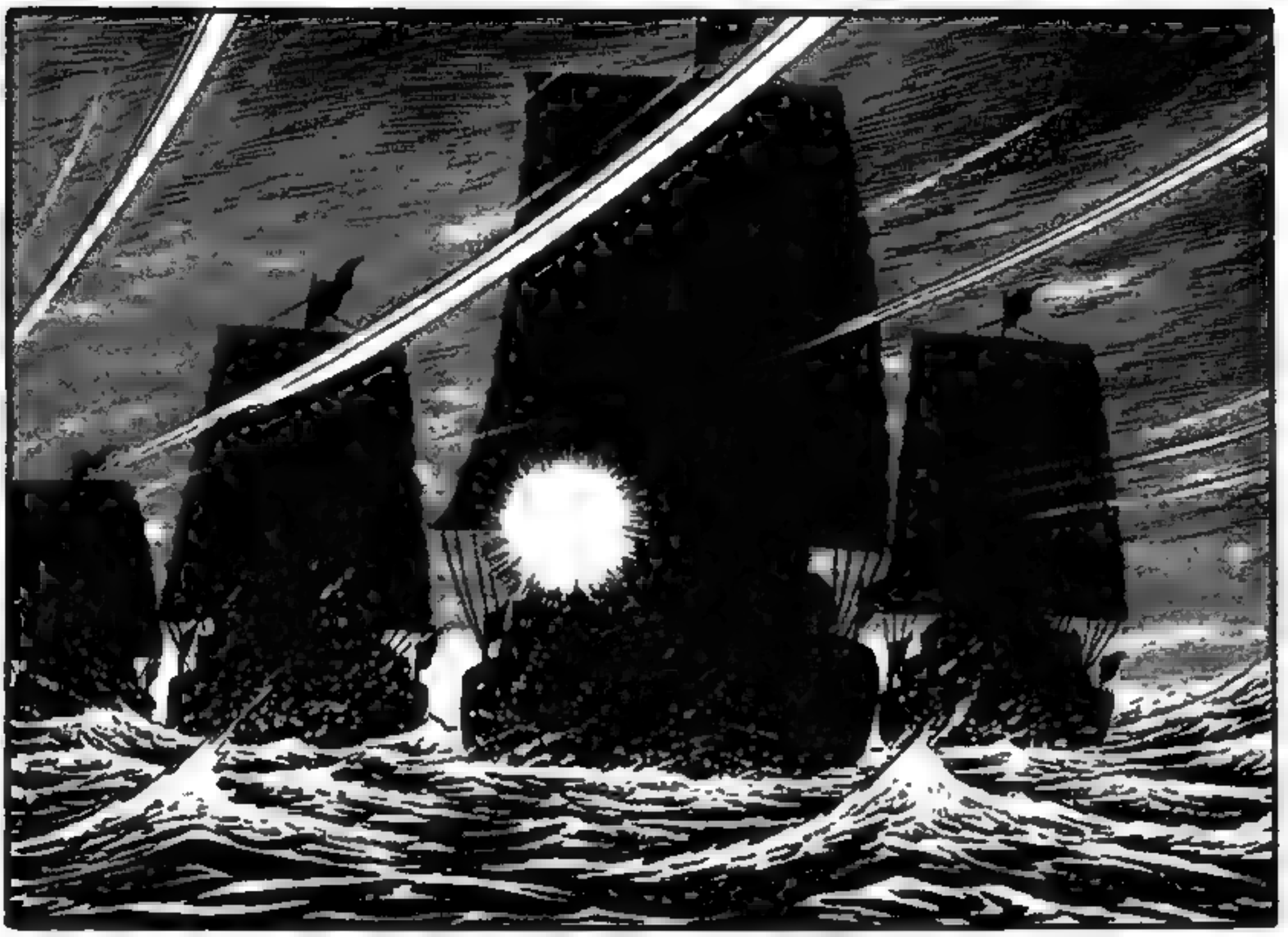
TONIGHT SHOULD BE SAFE, WHAT WITH THESE STRONG WINDS.


SEEMS LIVELY UP THERE.



THEY SHOULD ALL BE DRUNK BY NOW.

YES
GIVE THE SIGNAL.



I THINK I HEARD SOME HORSES.

D'YOU HEAR SOMETHING STRANGE?

HM?

LET ME GO CHECK.

AH!

AHI

OH BOY...
GULP

THOSE WHO RESIST WILL BE MERCILESSLY CUT DOWN HERE ON THE SPOT, HOWEVER.

CONVINCE THE GUARDS AT THE OTHER BEACONS TO SURRENDER AND YOU WILL NOT ONLY BE SPARED, BUT REWARDED, PROVIDED THAT YOU JOIN MY ARMY.

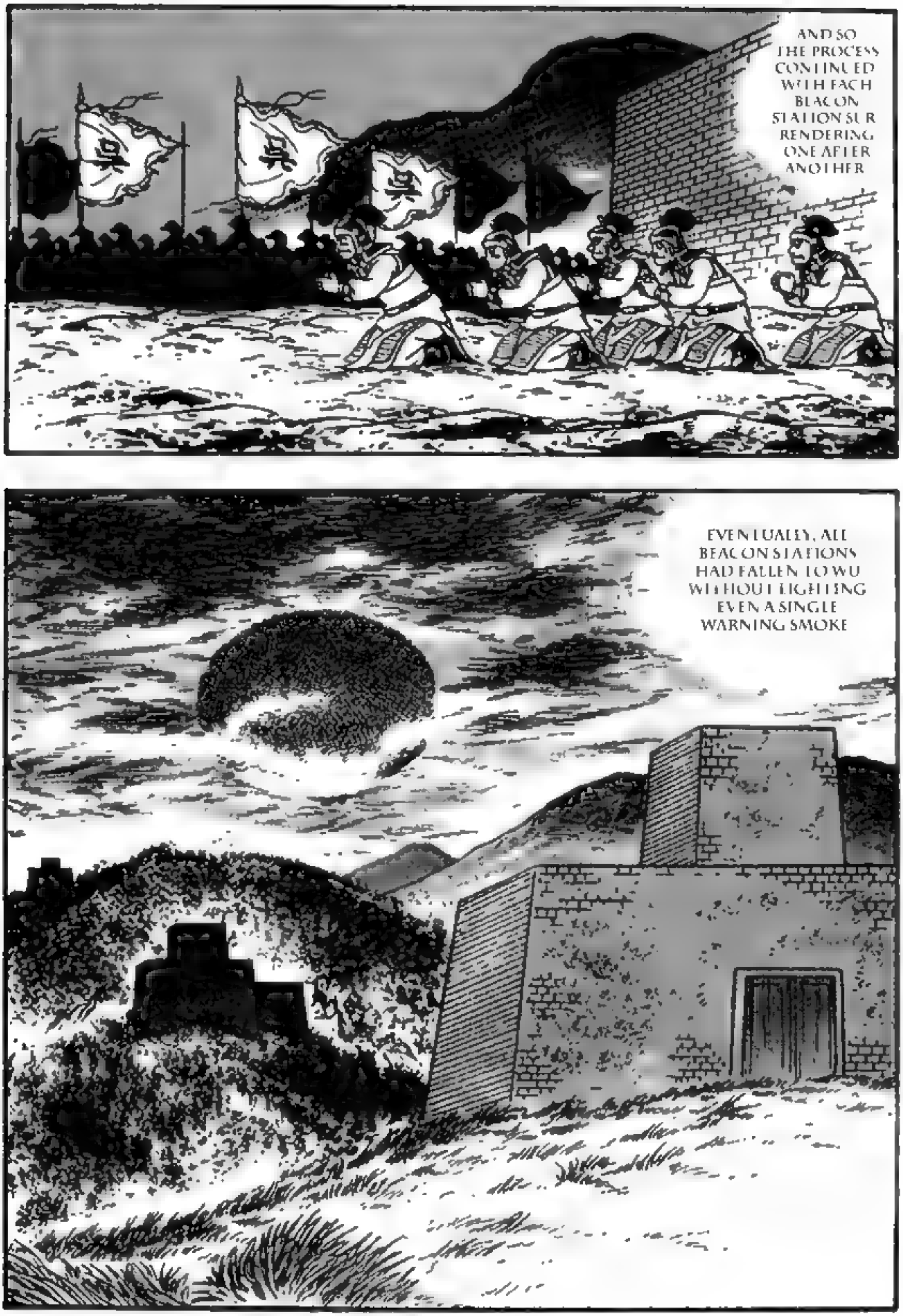
THE FATE OF YOUR LIVES NOW REST IN MY HANDS.

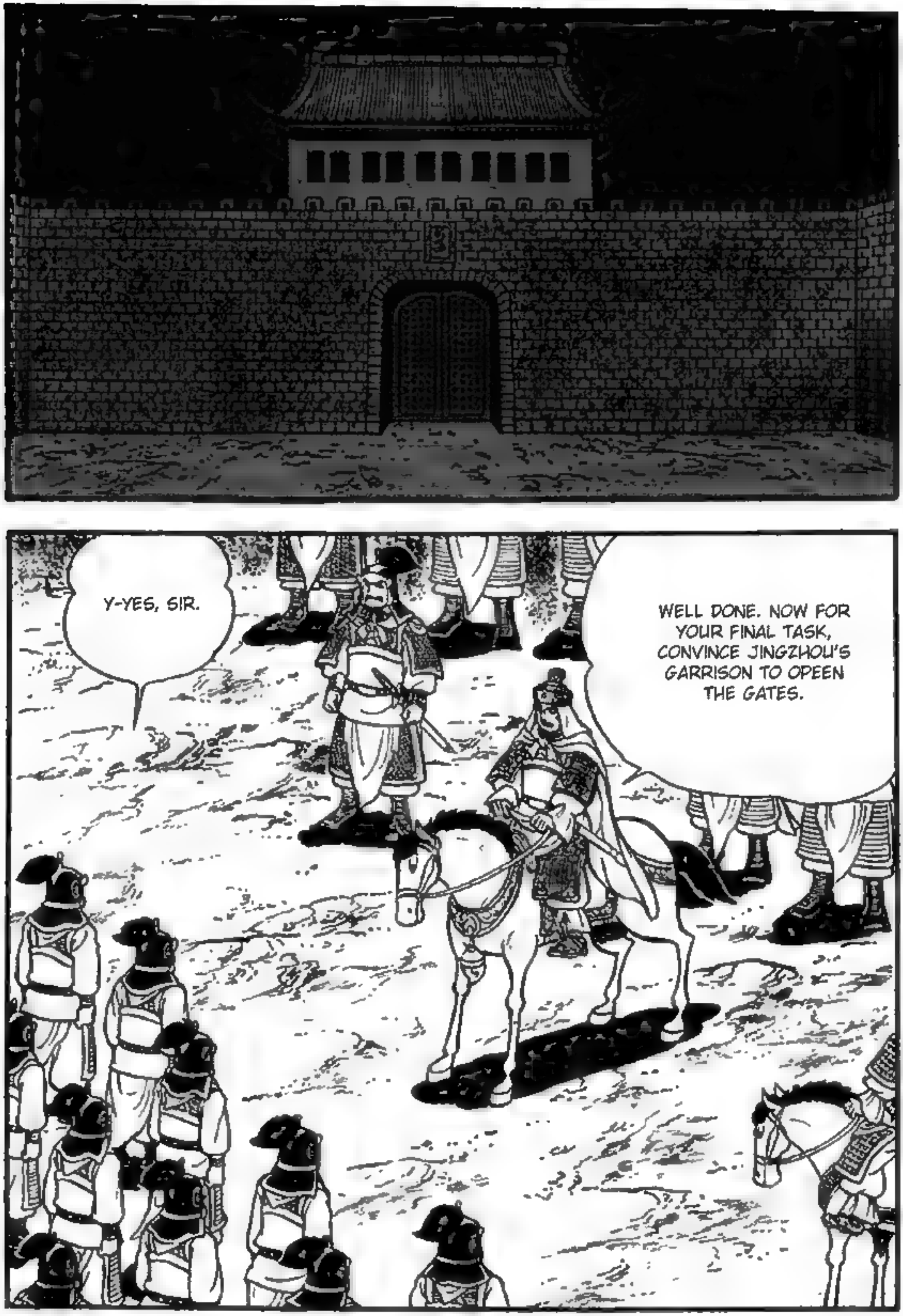
GOOD. I'M A MAN OF MY WORD. I HOPE YOU CAN KEEP YOURS.

W-WE PROMISE TO CONVINCE THE OTHER GUARDS SO PLEASE SPARE OUR LIVES...

THE CAPTIVE SOLDIERS WERE PERSUADED TO GO TO THE NEXT BEACON AND CONVINCE THEIR GUARDS TO OPEN THE GATES

UPON OPENING THE GATES FOR THEIR PRESUMED ALLIES, THE GUARDS WERE SCARED OUT OF THEIR WITS TO SEE THE WU ARMY BEFORE THEM


AND SO
THE PROCESS
CONTINUED
WITH EACH
BEACON
STATION SUR
RENDERING
ONE AFTER
ANOTHER
EVENTUALLY, ALL
BEACON STATIONS
HAD FALLEN TO WU
WITHOUT FIGHTING
EVEN A SINGLE
WARNING SMOKE


Y-YES, SIR.
WELL DONE. NOW FOR YOUR FINAL TASK, CONVINCE JINGZHOU'S GARRISON TO OPEEN THE GATES.

REST ASSURED, I WILL NOT HARM THOSE WHO DO NOT RESIST ME.

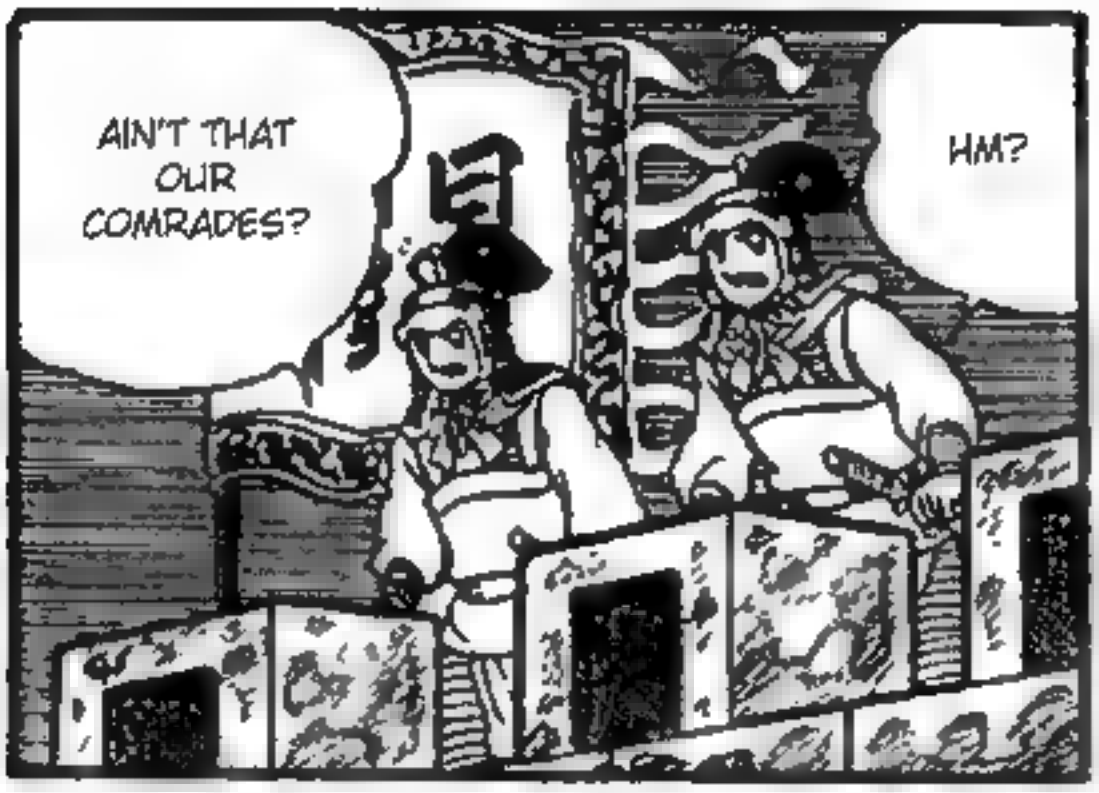
W-WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO OUR FAMILIES IN JINGZHOU WHEN YOU CAPTURE THE CITY?

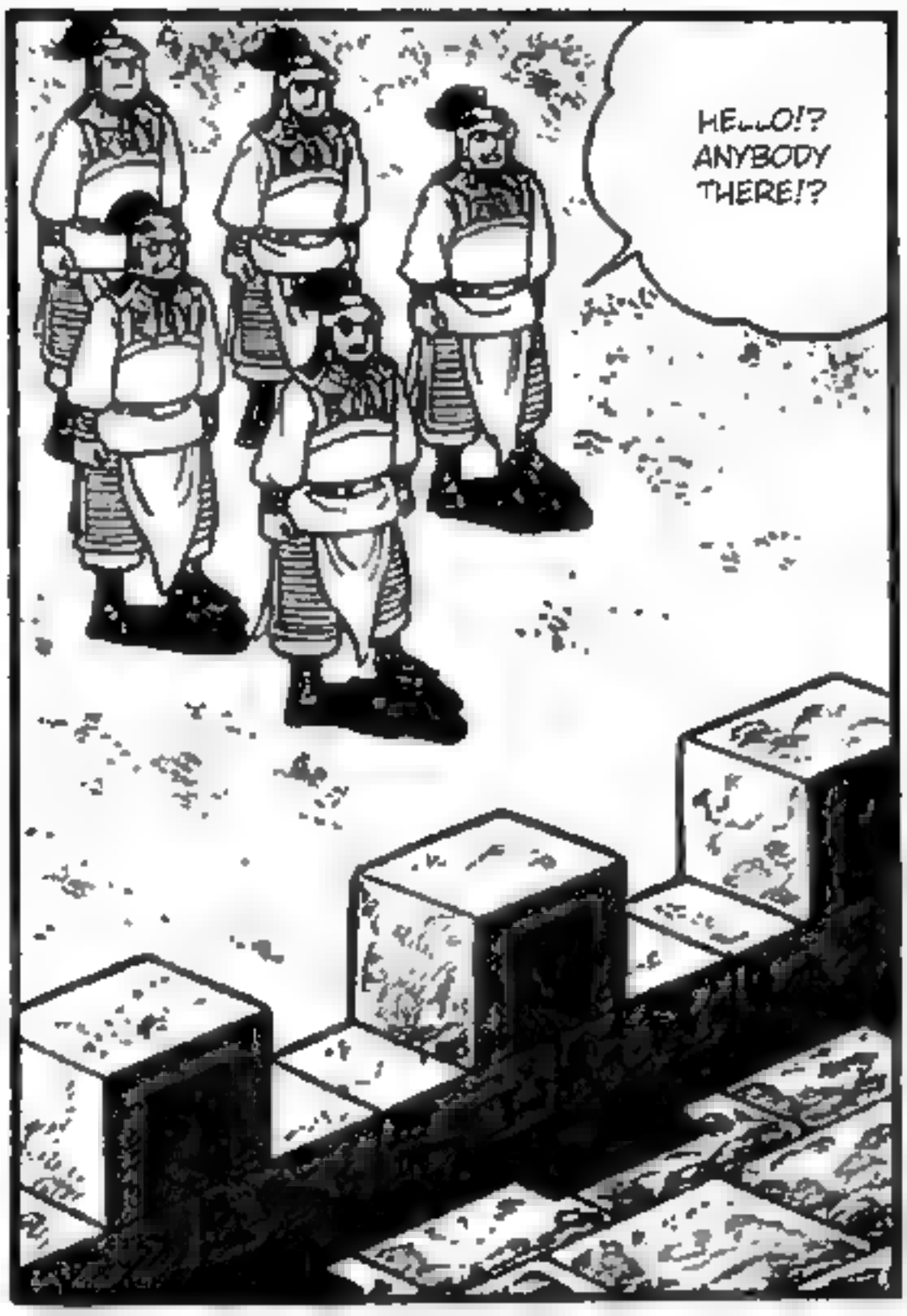
UMM...

WHAT IS IT?

Y-YES, SIR...

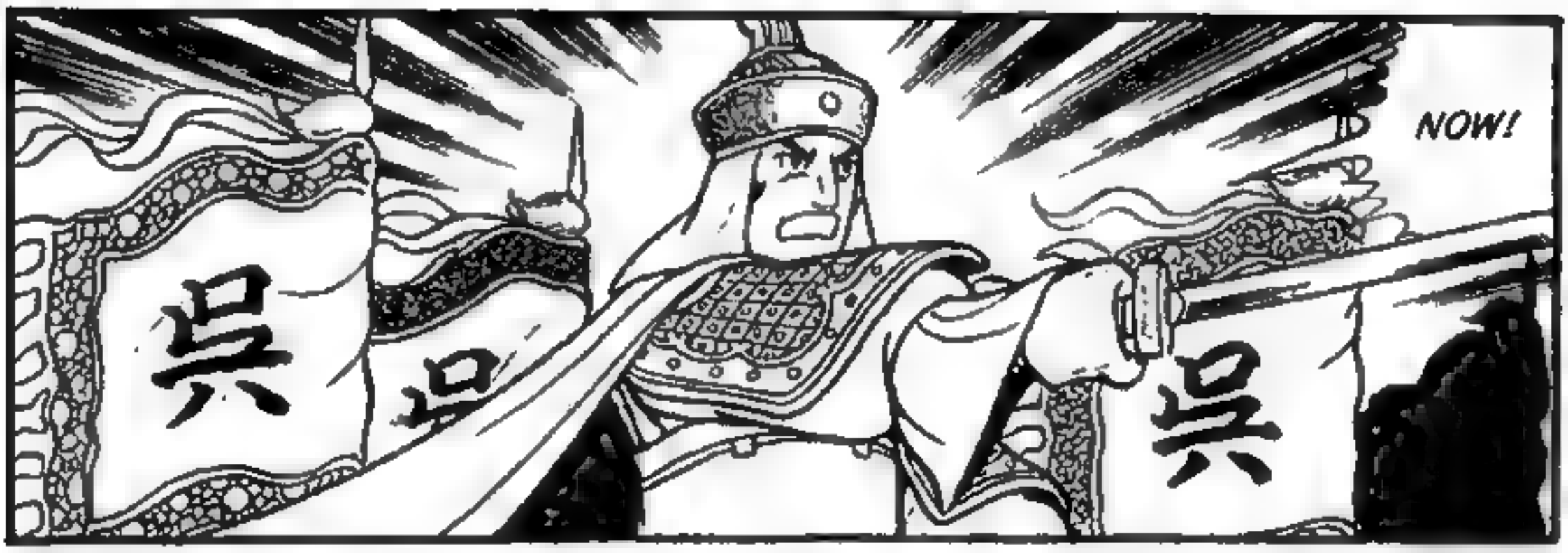
NOW GO!


AIN'T THAT OUR COMRADES?
HM?


HELLO!? ANYBODY THERE!?

WHAT'S WRONG!?

WE'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY! CAN YOU OPEN THE GATES?
AN EMERGENCY!? ALRIGHT, WE'LL OPEN THE GATES AT ONCE!


吳
吳
NOW!

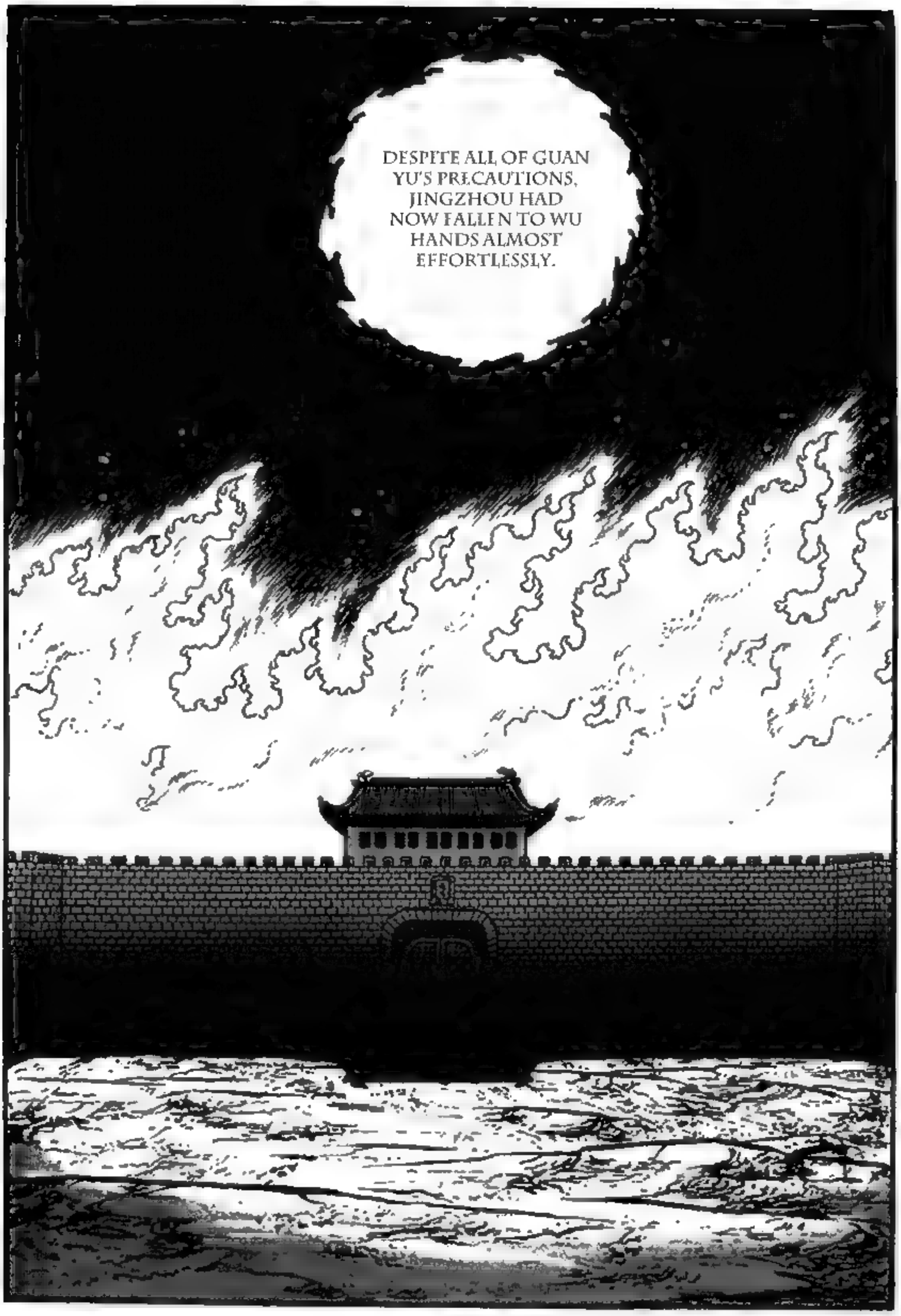
WHA!
GAHH!
AH!

BY THE TIME THE GARRISON REALIZED THEY WERE UNDER ATTACK, IT WAS TOO LATE. WU SOLDIERS POURED IN LIKE A FLOOD THROUGH THE GATES

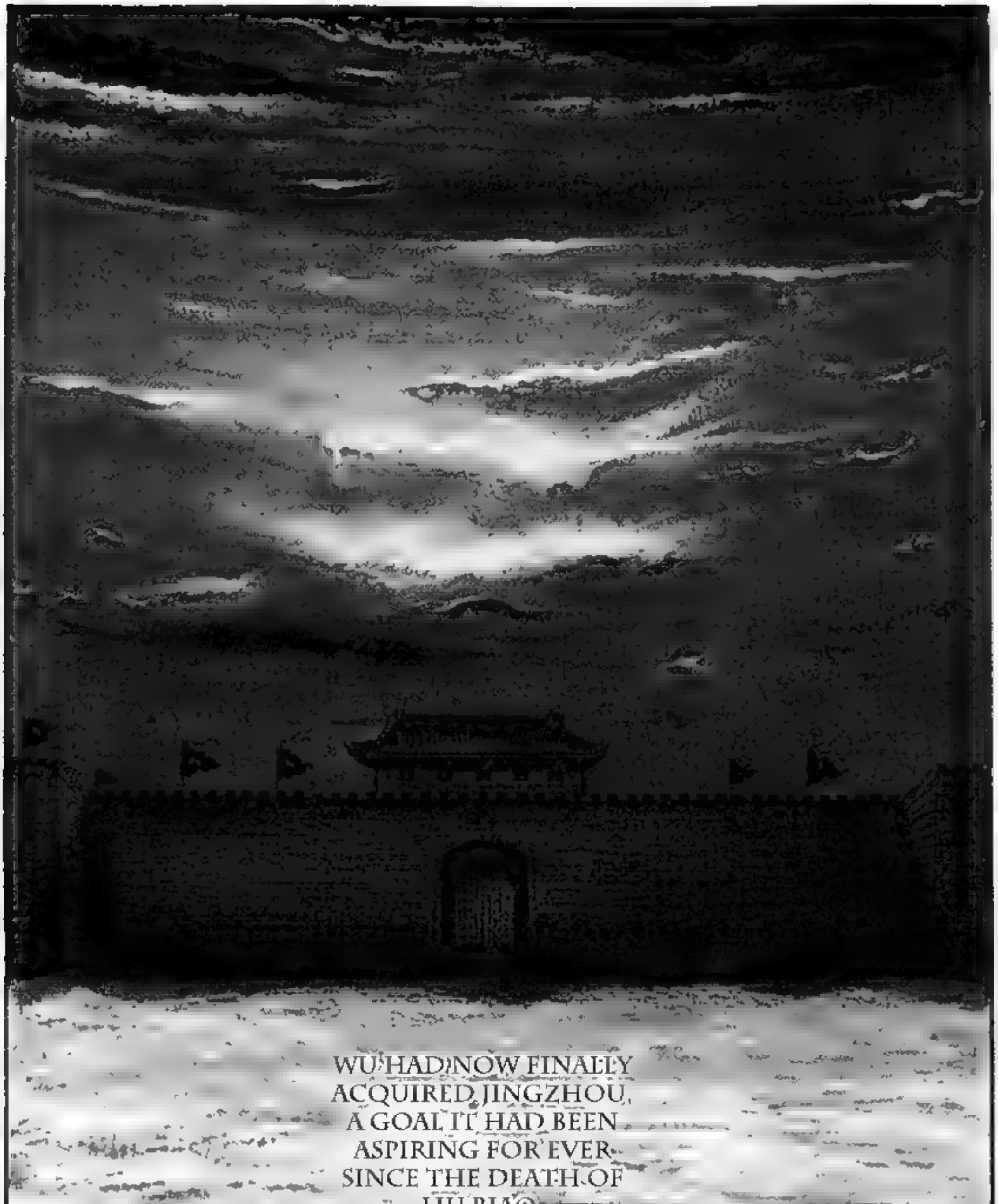
吳

THE WU SOLDIERS THREW THE CITY INTO A PANIC, ALLOWING THEM TO CAPTURE KEY POINTS QUICKLY

LIGHTING FIRES ACROSS TOWN.


DESPITE ALL OF GUAN YU'S PRECAUTIONS, JINGZHOU HAD NOW FALLEN TO WU HANDS ALMOST EFFORTLESSLY.

RAINSTORM


WU HAD NOW FINALLY
ACQUIRED JINGZHOU,
A GOAL IT HAD BEEN
ASPIRING FOR EVER
SINCE THE DEATH OF
LIU BIAO.

LI MING'S FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS AFTER TAKING THE CITY WAS TO REASSURE ITS CITIZENS WHO FELT UNEASY AT THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT

WHAT'S THAT, A NEW EDICT?

A SINGLE VIOLATION WILL GET YOUR HEAD LOPPED OFF?

LET'S SEE... "LAW AND ORDER COMES BEFORE ALL IN JINGZHOU'S NEW ADMINISTRATION. THOSE WHO KILL, STEAL, OR SPREAD MALICIOUS RUMOURS EVEN ONCE WILL BE SUMMARILY EXECUTED WITHOUT EXCEPTION."

-COMMANDER OF WU'S ARMED FORCES, LU MENG-

WELL, CONSIDERING HOW HE'S MANAGED TO RESTRAIN HIS SOLDIERS FROM LOOTING SO FAR, I'D PUT MY MONEY ON IT.

YOU THINK HE REALLY MEANS IT?

HE'S RIGHT. THERE'S NOT A SINGLE LINE SOLDIERS WON'T DARE TO CROSS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'VE HAD A FEW DRINKS.

SPEAKING OF VALUABLES, I'D DISGUISE YOUR DAUGHTER AS A BOY IF I WERE YOU.

I DON'T KNOW... YOU NEVER KNOW HOW STRICTLY THESE LAWS WILL BE ENFORCED, DESPITE ALL THEIR FANCY WORDS. I'D KEEP MY VALUABLES HIDDEN FOR SOME TIME.

DESPITE THE CITIZENS MISGIVINGS, LU MENG PERSONALLY INSPECTED THE STREETS IN THE DAY TO SEE THAT LAW AND ORDER WAS KEPT

BUT I BELIEVE THEY STILL FEEL THREATENED ON THE INSIDE.

FOR THE TIME BEING, YES,

WHAT DO YOU THINK? THE POPULACE SEEMS TO HAVE CALMED DOWN.

YES, SIR.

THE STATE EXISTS ONLY WHEN THERE ARE PEOPLE IN IT. IT CANNOT STAND STABLY WITHOUT THE POPULACE'S SUPPORT. HEED THESE WORDS WELL.

YES.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S STARTING TO POUR. YOU SHOULD RETIRE FOR THE DAY, SIR.

HM?

HM?

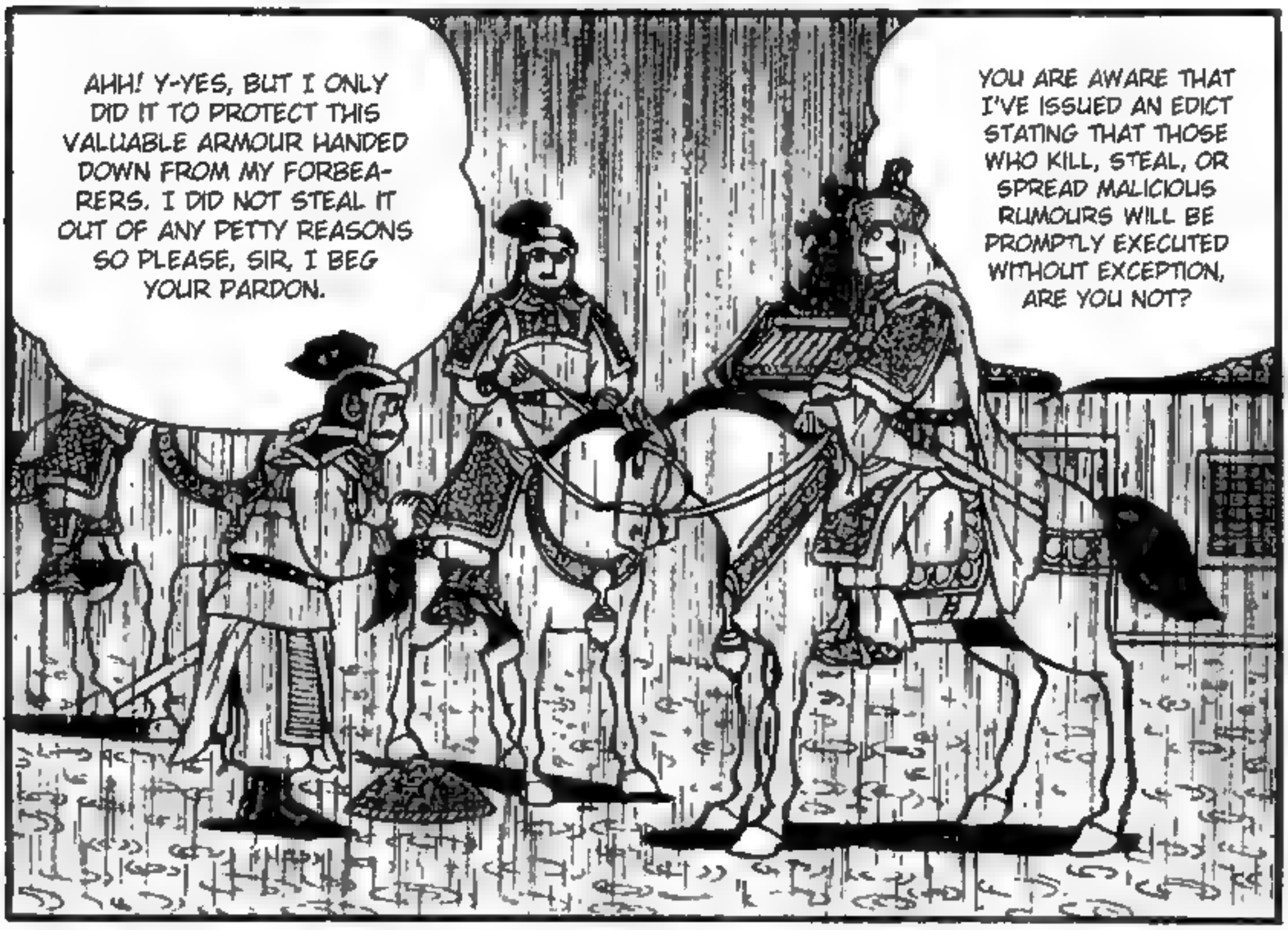
HALT!

YES, S-R!
DETAIN THAT MAN!

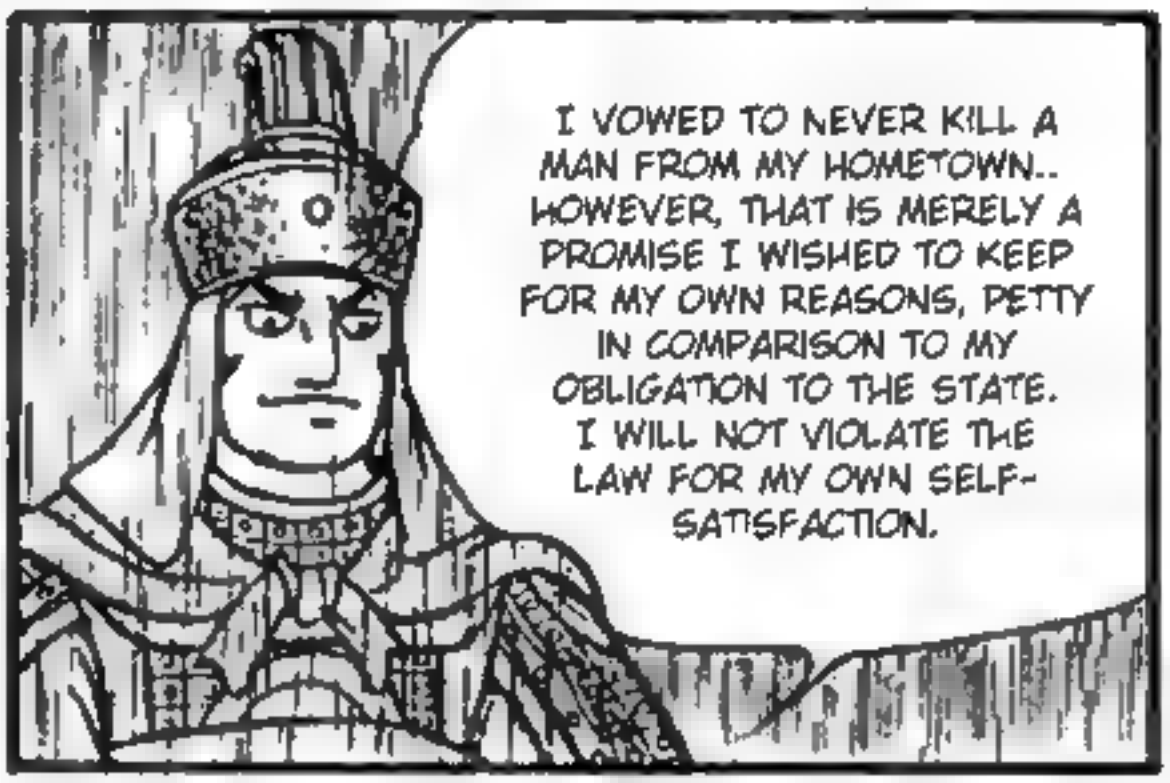
Y-YES, COMMANDER.

OH? AREN'T YOU THAT SOLDIER WHO HAILS FROM THE SAME VILLAGE AS ME?

THAT STRAW HAT DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE YOURS... DID YOU STEAL IT FROM A LOCAL PEASANT?


AHH! Y-YES, BUT I ONLY DID IT TO PROTECT THIS VALUABLE ARMOUR HANDED DOWN FROM MY FORBEA-RERS. I DID NOT STEAL IT OUT OF ANY PETTY REASONS SO PLEASE, SIR, I BEG YOUR PARDON.
YOU ARE AWARE THAT I'VE ISSUED AN EDICT STATING THAT THOSE WHO KILL, STEAL, OR SPREAD MALICIOUS RUMOURS WILL BE PROMPTLY EXECUTED WITHOUT EXCEPTION, ARE YOU NOT?

N-NO...!


I VOWED TO NEVER KILL A MAN FROM MY HOMETOWN.. HOWEVER, THAT IS MERELY A PROMISE I WISHED TO KEEP FOR MY OWN REASONS, PETTY IN COMPARISON TO MY OBLIGATION TO THE STATE. I WILL NOT VIOLATE THE LAW FOR MY OWN SELF-SATISFACTION.

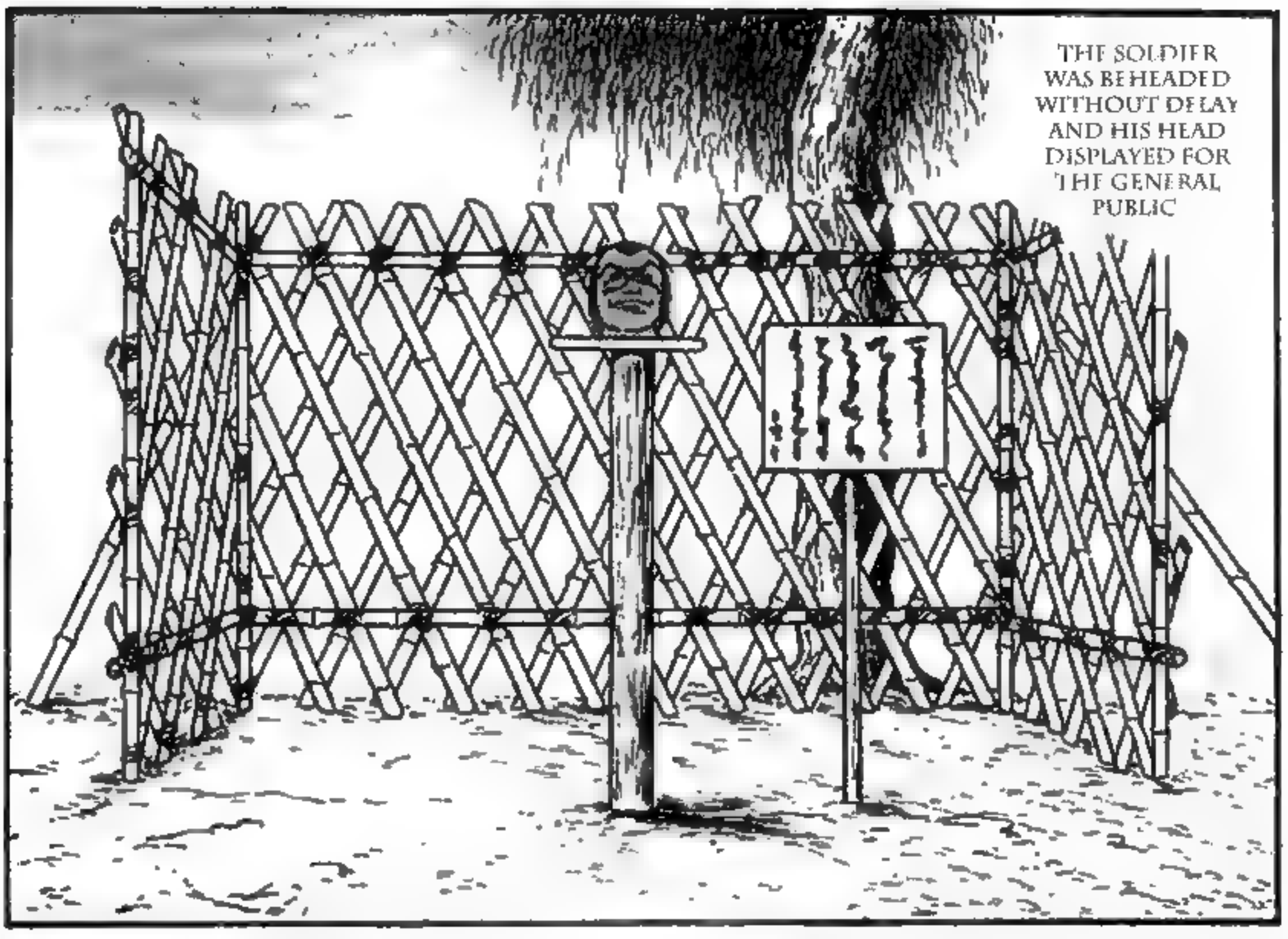
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU FELT YOU HAD TO STEAL THE HAT, BUT A CRIME IS A CRIME.

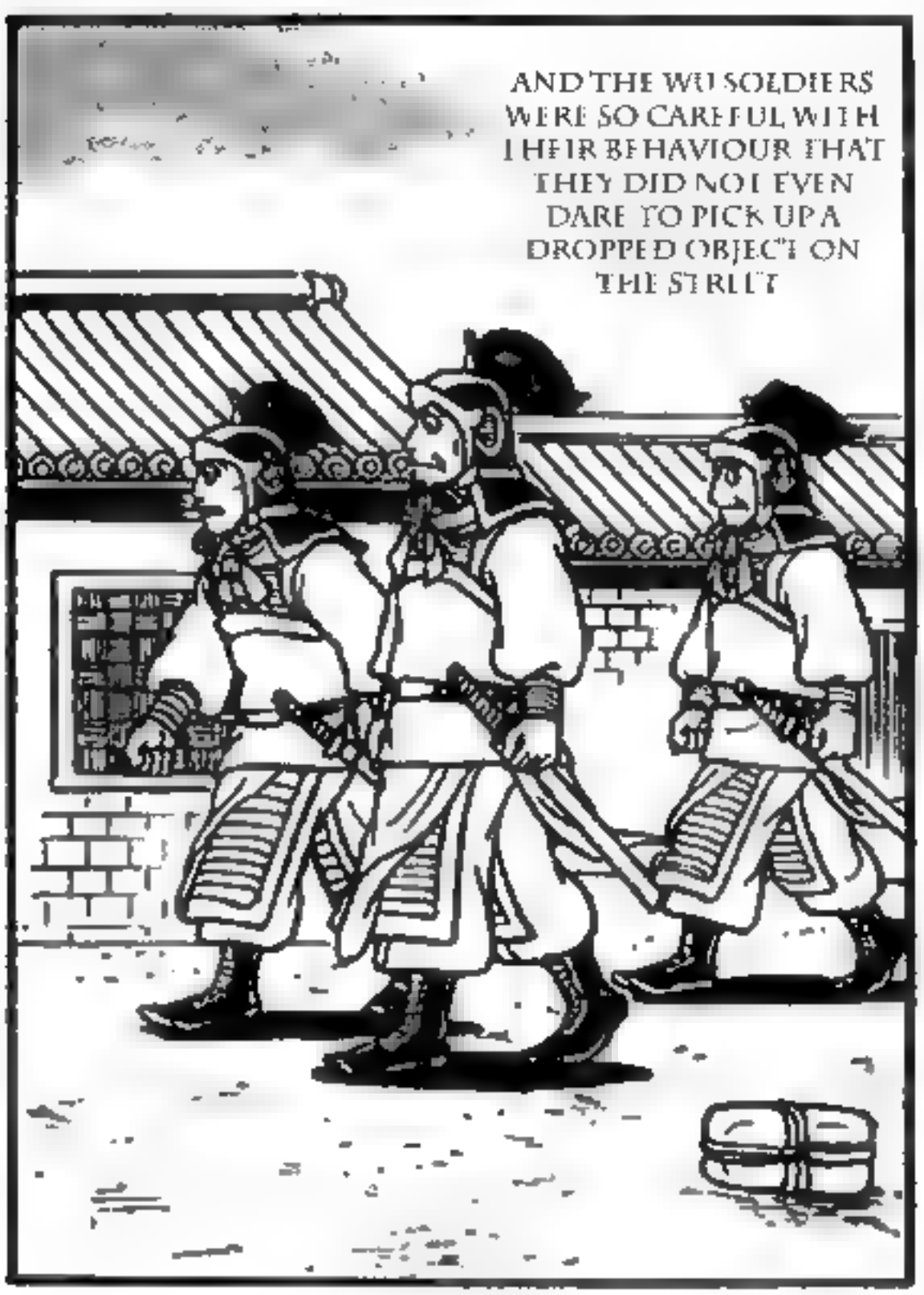
PLEASE, SIR... TO BE EXECUTED OVER A SINGLE STRAW HAT IS FAR TOO CRUEL! I BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS. PLEASE HAVE SYMPATHY FOR YOUR FELLOW VILLAGER!

OFF WITH THIS MAN'S HEAD!

THOUGH I WISH TO SPARE YOU, PETTY SENTIMENTS CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO NTERFERE WITH MATTERS THAT CONCERN THE STATE AS A WHOLE.

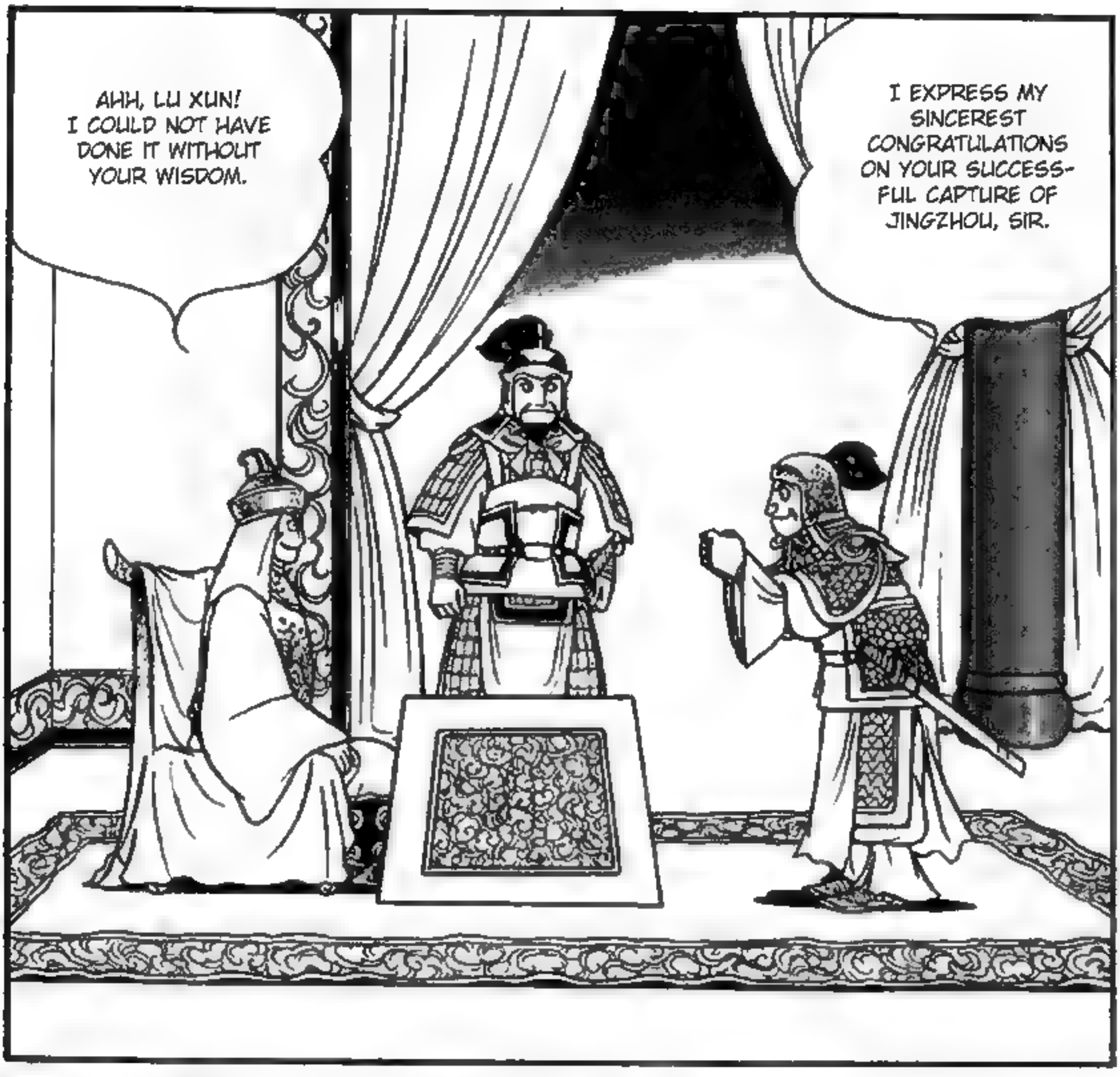
NOOO...


THE SOLDIER WAS BEHEADED WITHOUT DELAY AND HIS HEAD DISPLAYED FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC


AND THE WU SOLDIERS WERE SO CAREFUL WITH THEIR BEHAVIOUR THAT THEY DID NOT EVEN DARE TO PICK UP A DROPPED OBJECT ON THE STREET

WITH THIS, JINGZHOU'S LOCALS COULD FINALLY TRUST LU MENG'S COMMITMENT TO FAIR TREATMENT.

FU SHIREN AND MI FANG


AHH, LU XUN! I COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOUR WISDOM.
I EXPRESS MY SINCEREST CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SUCCESS-FUL CAPTURE OF JINGZHOU, SIR.
RIGHT.
STILL, THE REGION IS FAR FROM SECURE SINCE TO OUR SOUTH, FU SHIREN AND MI FANG HOLD GONGAN AND NANJUN RESPECTIVELY.

WELL...

HAVE YOU ANY WISDOM TO LEND ME ON HOW TO SUBDUE THEM?

YOU DO? SPEAK FREELY, YU FAN.

I HAVE AN IDEA TO ACCOMPLISH IT WITHOUT VIOLENT MEANS, SIR.

FU SHIREN AND I ARE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS. I AM CONFIDENT I CAN PERSUADE HIM TO JOIN OUR SIDE.

YES, SIR.

SPLENDID. PLEASE GO AHEAD.

BY THIS TIME, FU SHIREN HAD HEARD OF JINGZHOU'S CAPTURE AND HE NOW HASTENED GONGAN'S GARRISON TO PREPARE FOR AN ENEMY ATTACK

SIR!

THE THOUGHT OF IMMINENT ATTACK DEEPLY UNNERVED HIM.

WHAT IS IT!?

BUT 500, YOU SAY? THAT'S FAR TOO FEW...

THEY'RE ALREADY HERE!?

AN ENEMY FORCE OF ABOUT 500 HAS BEEN SPOTTED BEFORE THE GATES.

MN!?

YU FAN!?

MY DEAR FRIEND, IT IS ME! YU FAN!

吳

WE MAY BE FRIENDS, BUT I'M AFRAID I CANNOT OPEN THE GATES FOR AN ENEMY IN THIS TIME OF WAR.

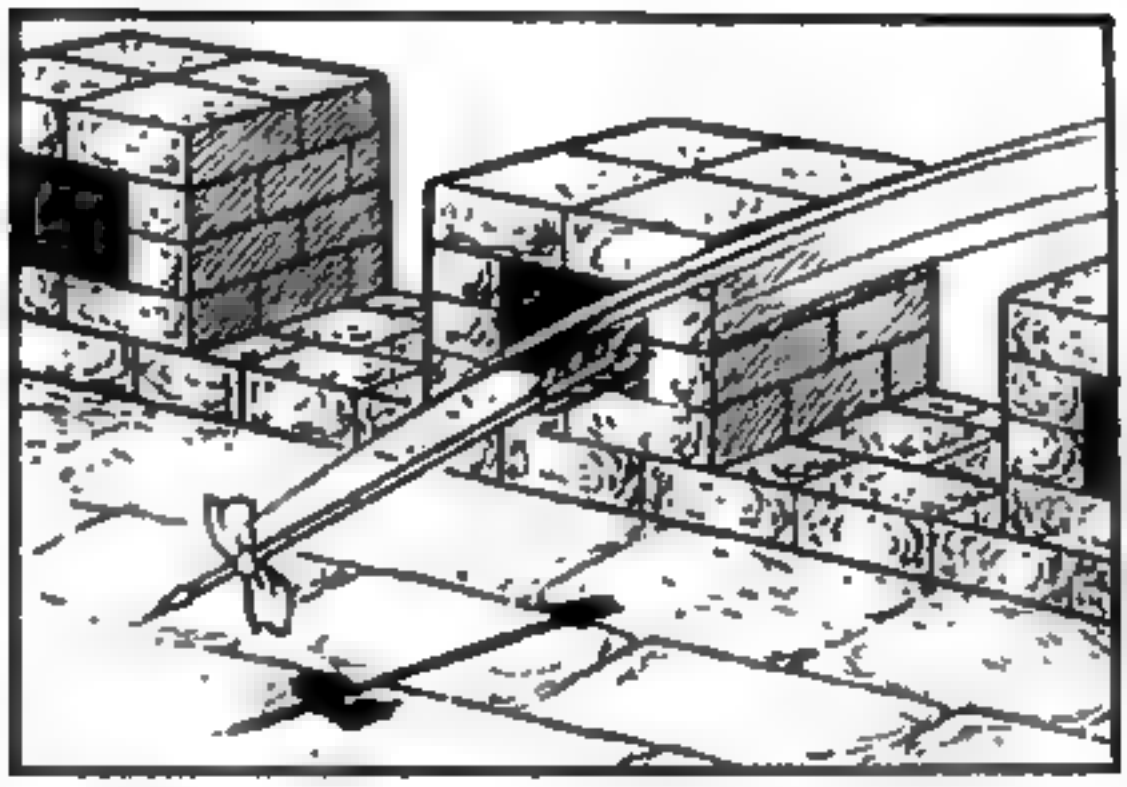
I DID NOT COME TODAY FOR BATTLE. I AM MERELY HERE AS A DIPLOMAT SO PLEASE OPEN THE GATES.

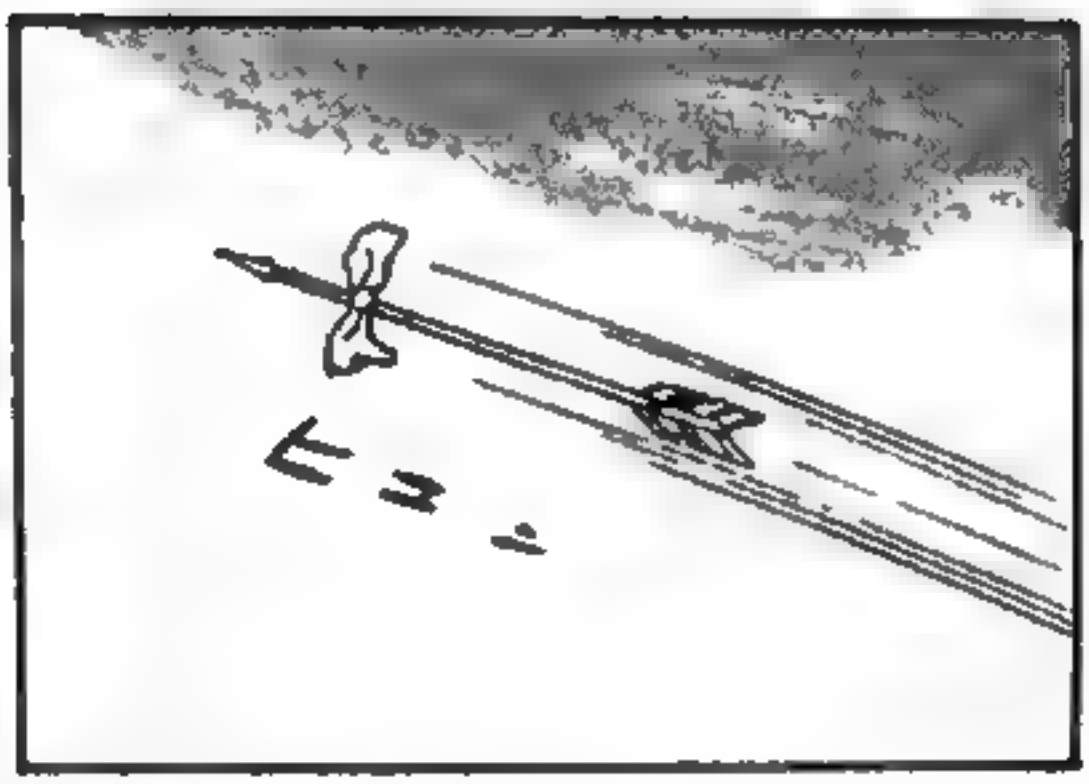
吳

A PITY. I HOPE YOU'LL AT LEAST READ MY LETTER THEN.

YES, SIR.

SEND THE LETTER AS PLANNED.

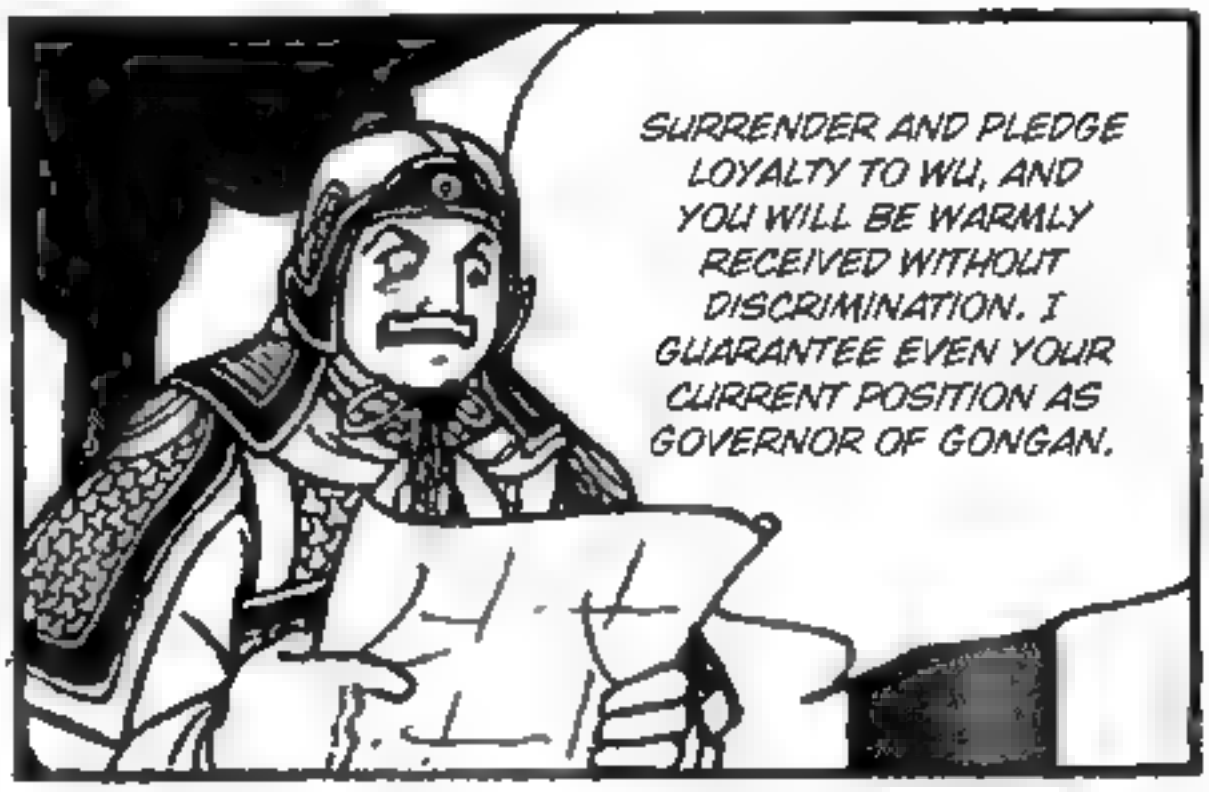




INSPECTOR PAN JUN WHO WAS LEFT IN CHARGE OF JINGZHOU HAS SURRENDERED AND DEFECTED TO WU, AS DID YU JIN OF WEI, WHO WAS FREED FROM THE CITY'S PRISON.

YES, SIR!
GIVE IT HERE!

MNN...


SURRENDER AND PLEDGE LOYALTY TO WU, AND YOU WILL BE WARMLY RECEIVED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. I GUARANTEE EVEN YOUR CURRENT POSITION AS GOVERNOR OF GONGAN.

BUT WHY SHED BLOOD NEEDLESSLY WHEN AN ALTERNATIVE OPTION EXISTS?

FU SHIREN! IT WILL NOT TAKE LONG FOR WU'S GRAND ARMY TO TAKE THIS CITY.

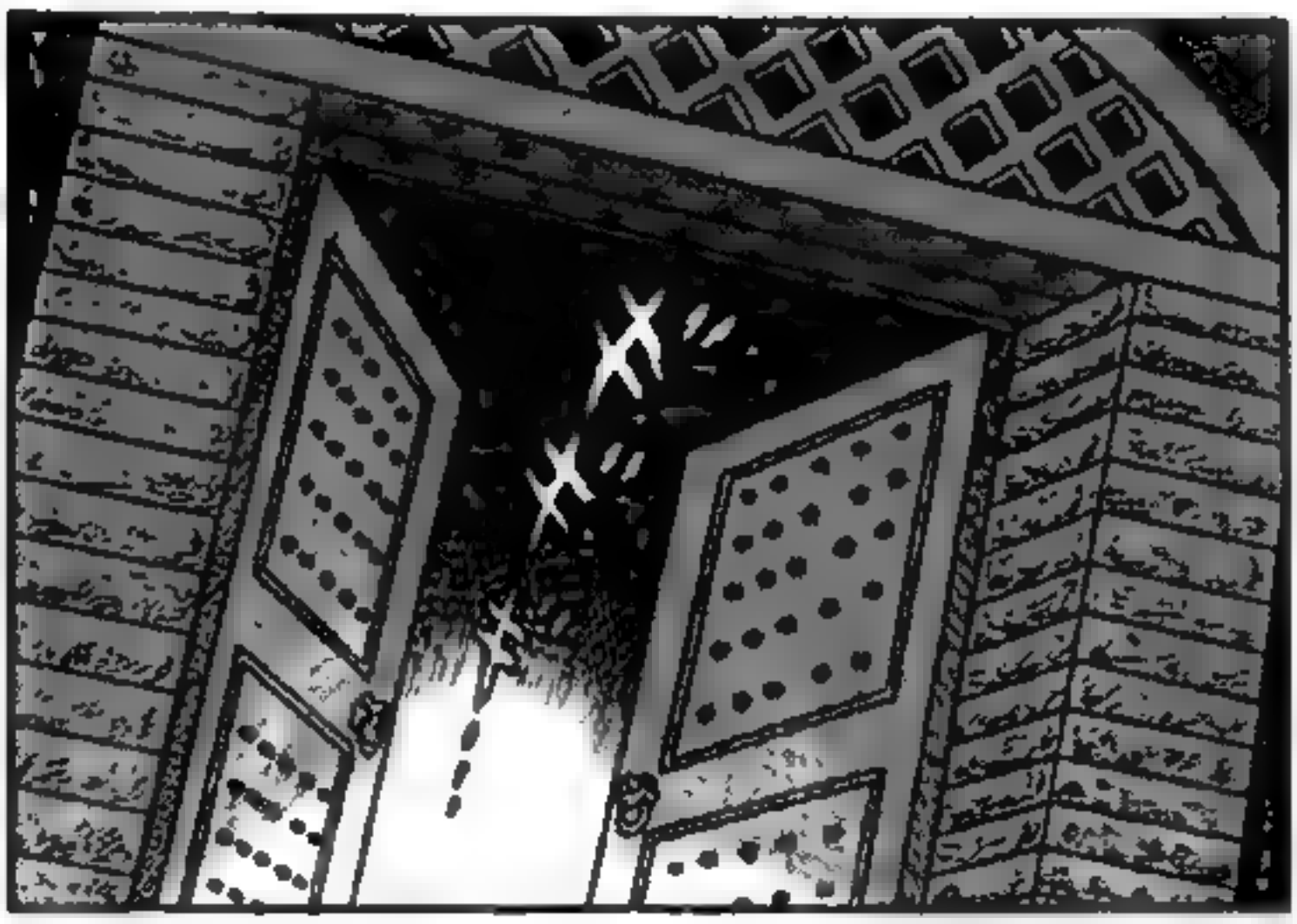
WHO DO YOU THINK WILL BE FORCED TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE BLAME WHEN GUAN YU RETURNS FROM HIS CAMPAIGN?
EVEN IF YOU SOMEHOW MANAGE TO DEFEND GONGAN, THE FACT REMAINS THAT JINGZHOU IS NOW IN OUR POSSESSION.

HE'S RIGHT... IT'S INEVITABLE I'LL BE MADE CULPABLE FOR JINGZHOU'S LOSS.

.....

BUT ABOVE ALL, I SIMPLY DO NOT WISH TO SEE A DEAR FRIEND DIE BEFORE MY EYES.

OPEN THE GATES!



FINE! I WILL OPEN THE GATES!

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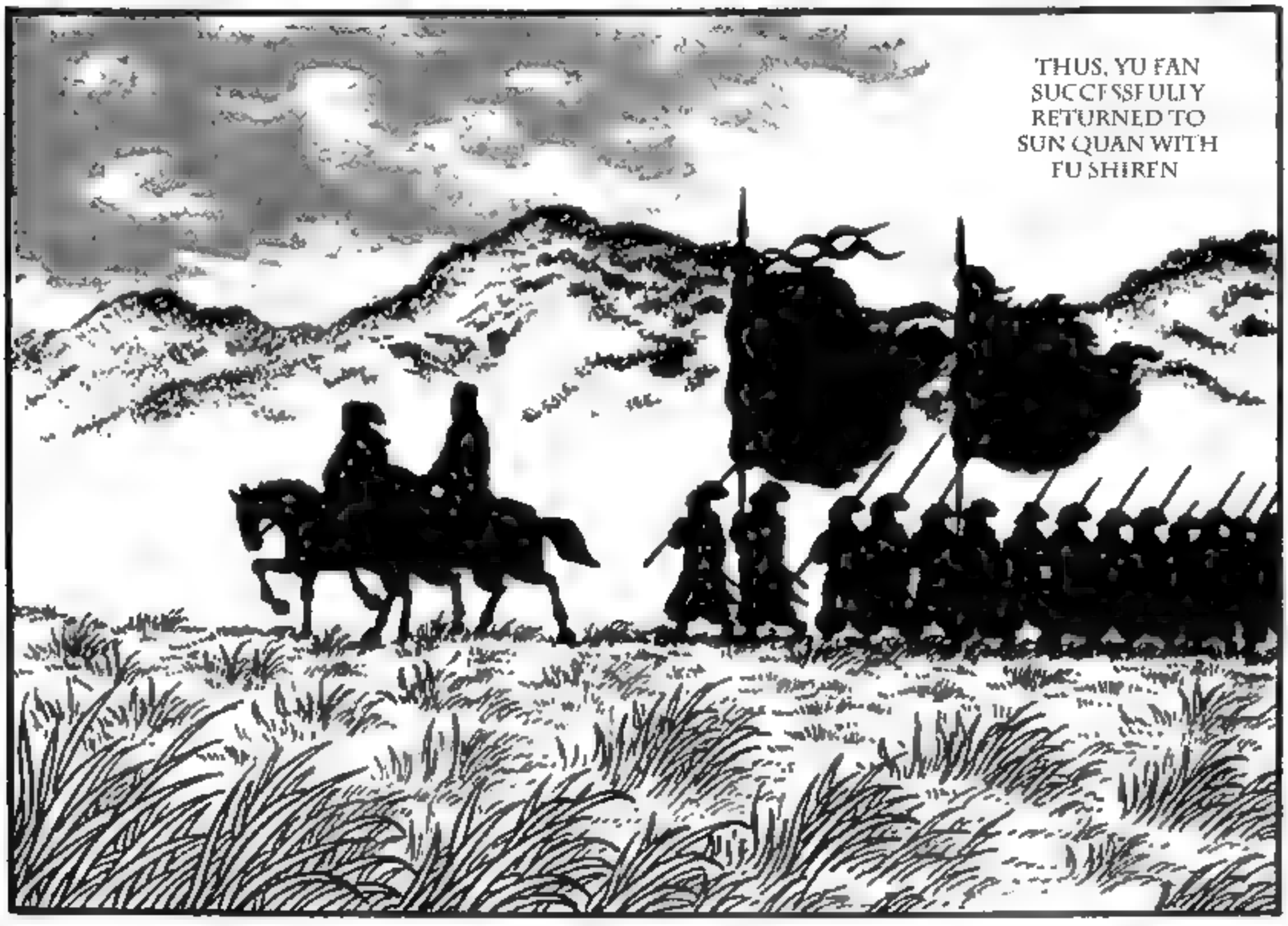
NOW COME WITH ME TO BE ACQUAINTED WITH SUN QUAN.

I LEAVE IT ALL IN YOUR HANDS.

YES, I COULD NOT DENY THE TRUTH OF YOUR WORDS.
THANK YOU FOR BEING SO REASONABLE, FU SHIREN.


THUS, YU FAN SUCCESSFULLY RETURNED TO SUN QUAN WITH FU SHIREN

THANK YOU, MY LORD.

WELCOME, FU SHIREN. AS LONG AS YOU PLEDGE LOYALTY TO ME, I WILL ALLOW YOU TO TAKE CARE OF GONGAN AS YOU HAVE UNTIL NOW.

YES, WE'VE BEEN CLOSE COLLEAGUES FOR MANY YEARS.

BY THE WAY, I HEAR YOU'RE ON GOOD TERMS WITH MI FANG, YES?

IF YOU CAN GET HIM TO SURRENDER NANJUN TO ME, THEN I WILL REWARD YOU GREATLY AND RECEIVE MI FANG WARMLY AS WELL.

THEN I WILL GIVE YOU THE MISSION OF PERSUADING MI FANG TO JOIN OUR SIDE.

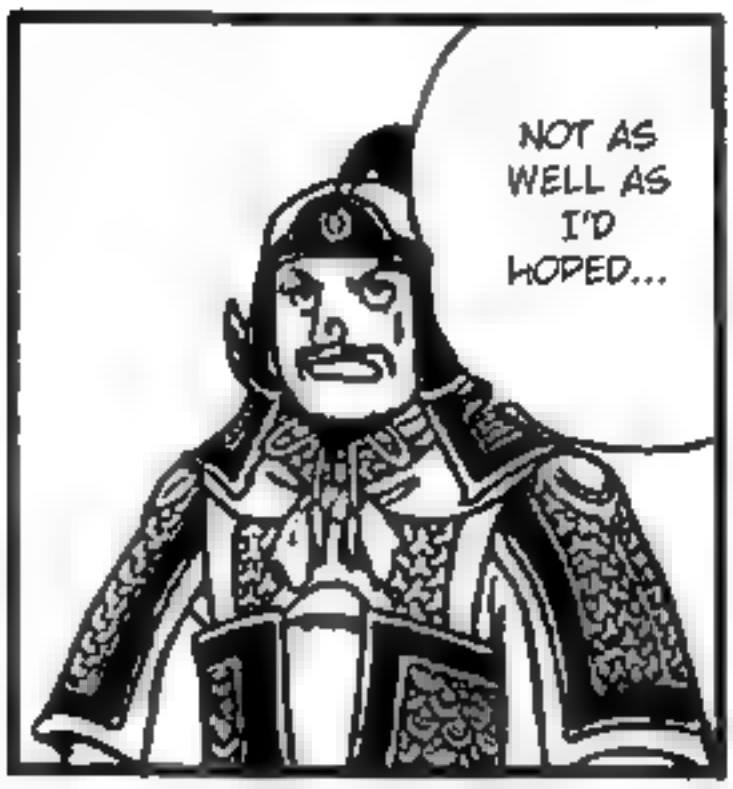
.....

Y-YES, SIR. I'LL BE ON MY WAY TO NANJUN THEN.

EXCELLENT CHOICE OF ACTION, MY LORD.

AND WITH THAT, FU SHIREN WILL HAVE GOOD REASON TO PERSUADE MI FANG AT ALL COSTS.

HOW DID THE MEETING GO, FU SHIREN?


NOT AS WELL AS I'D HOPED...

OUR LORD HAS ORDERED ME TO BRING MI FANG ON OUR SIDE.

DIFFICULT TASK?
I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO A DIFFI-CULT TASK I COULD NOT REFUSE...

MI FANG'S SERVED LIU BEI FAITHFULLY FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES. HE WILL NOT CHANGE SIDES SO EASILY.
WHAT'S SO HARD ABOUT THAT?

TRUE, HE'S SERVED LIU BEI FOR A LONG TIME, BUT THE MAN'S NO SAINT EITHER. HE WAS LIVING A DULL MEANINGLESS LIFE AS THE SON OF AN EXTREMELY WEALTHY MERCHANT FAMILY, WHEN HIS INTEREST WAS PEAKED BY A PECULIAR MAN NAMED LIU BEI.

JUST BE SURE TO TRY YOUR HARDEST. YOUR VERY FUTURE HERE IN WU IS ALSO AT STAKE, AFTER ALL.

HMM...

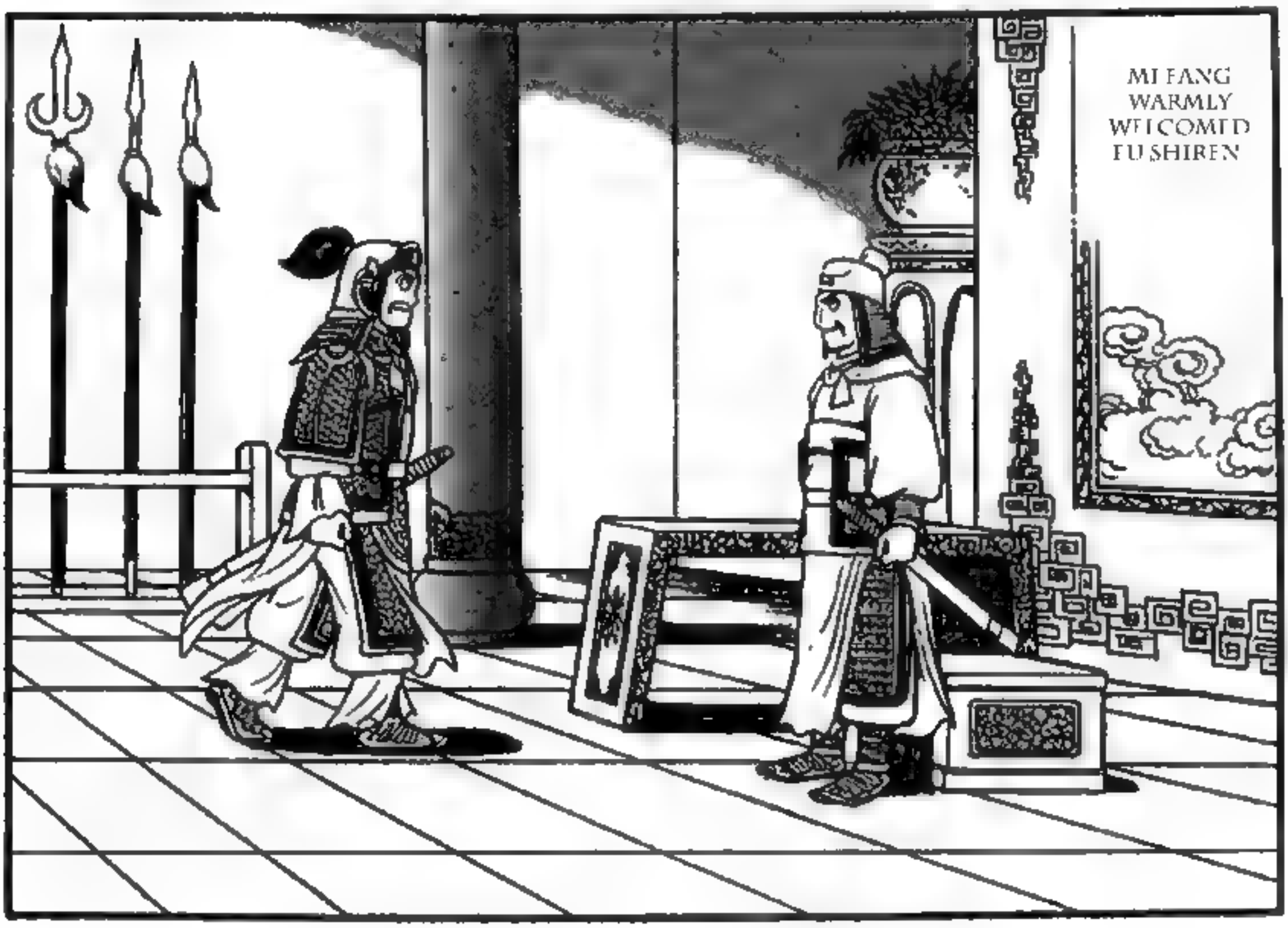
DESPITE HIS YEARS OF SERVICE, HE'S STILL A MERCHANT AT HEART, NOT SOME VAINGLORIOUS WARRIOR SEEKING IMMORTAL FAME. APPEAL TO REASON AND HE'LL SURELY CHOOSE THE MORE PROFITABLE OPTION.

YES...

THANK YOU, YU FAN.

I'LL TRY TO CONVINCE OUR LORD TO PUT SOME MILITARY PRESSURE ON NANJUN SO AS TO MAKE YOUR TASK EASIER.

WITH YU FAN'S
ADVICE IN
MIND TU
SHIREN HEADED
FOR NANJUN


MI FANG
WARMLY
WELCOMED
TU SHIREN

HM? DO YOU MEAN ON THE COMING WU ASSAULT?

IN ANY CASE, I'VE COME TO DISCUSS AN IMPORTANT MATTER.

SO IT SEEMS JINGZHOU HAS FALLEN.

YES, WHO COULD HAVE FORSEEN THIS?

WHAT!?

ACTUALLY... I'VE ALREADY SURRENDERED TO WU.

LOOK, YOU KNOW ME. I'M NOT THE SORT TO SELL MY LOYALTY TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR MY OWN PROFIT. BUT WITH JINGZHOU LOST, HOW LONG COULD GONGAN REALLY HOLD OUT FOR? MY SURRENDER CAME AFTER LONG DELIBERATION ON THE GRUESOME FATE OF GONGAN'S GARRISON AND CIVILIANS IF IT CAME TO A BLOODY SIEGE.

FU SHIREN! HOW DARE YOU INSULT MY CHARAC-TER!

LISTEN, HOW WOULD YOU FEEL RETURNING WITH ME TO VISIT SUN QUAN? HE SEEMED TO ME A CAPABLE MAN WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD OF HIM.

SIR! A MESSENGER HAS COME TO BRING AN URGENT ORDER FROM COMMANDER GUAN YU!

LOOK, I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL. BUT YOU HAVE TO REALIZE THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION IS-

DID YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD BETRAY THE KING OF HANZHONG AFTER RECEIVING HIS BOUNTY FOR MANY YEARS!?

I'LL SEE THE MESSENGER AT ONCE.

AN URGENT ORDER!?

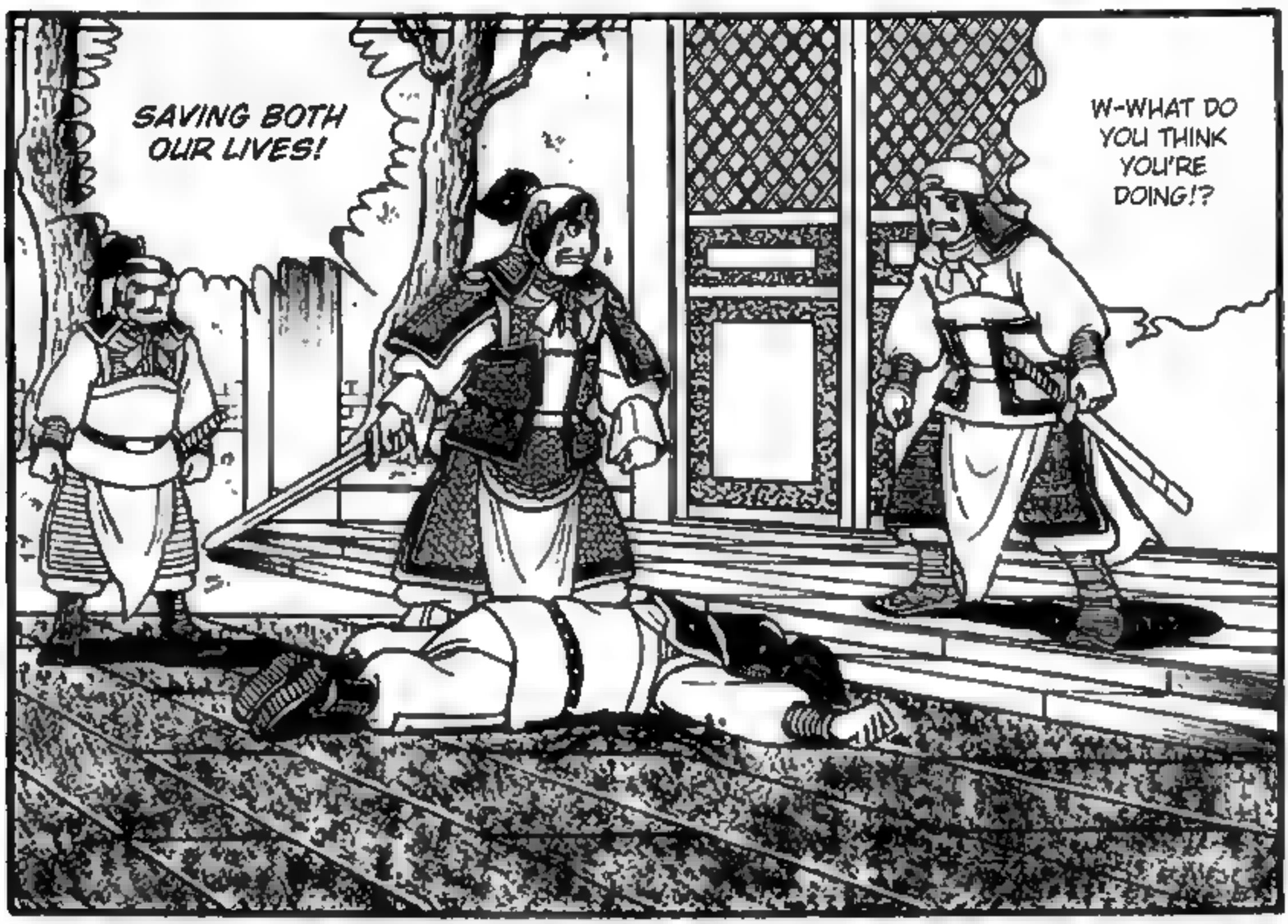
THUS, THE COMMANDER ORDERS NANJUN AND GONGAN TO SEND 10,000 CARTS OF GRAIN AT ONCE!

THE RECENT FLOOD AT FANCHENG HAS LEFT IT DIFFICULT TO ACQUIRE ENOUGH GRAIN TO SUSTAIN OUR ARMY.

ON WHAT URGENT MATTER HAVE YOU COME?

A SINGLE DAY'S DELAY WILL BE PUNISHED WITH 40 LASHINGS, TWO DAY'S DELAY WITH 80 LASHES, AND A DELAY OF THREE DAYS OR MORE WITH CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

THAT'S NOT EVEN POSSIBLE NOW THAT JINGZHOU IS IN WU HANDS!
10,000 CARTS AT ONCE!?


SAVING BOTH OUR LIVES!
W-WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?

SO THAT WHEN THE KING OF HANZHONG INQUIRES INTO THE LOSS OF JINGZHOU, HE'LL BLAME IT SQUARELY ON OUR INCOMPETENCE AND LAZINESS!
HE'S KNOW-INGLY ASKING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE FROM US,

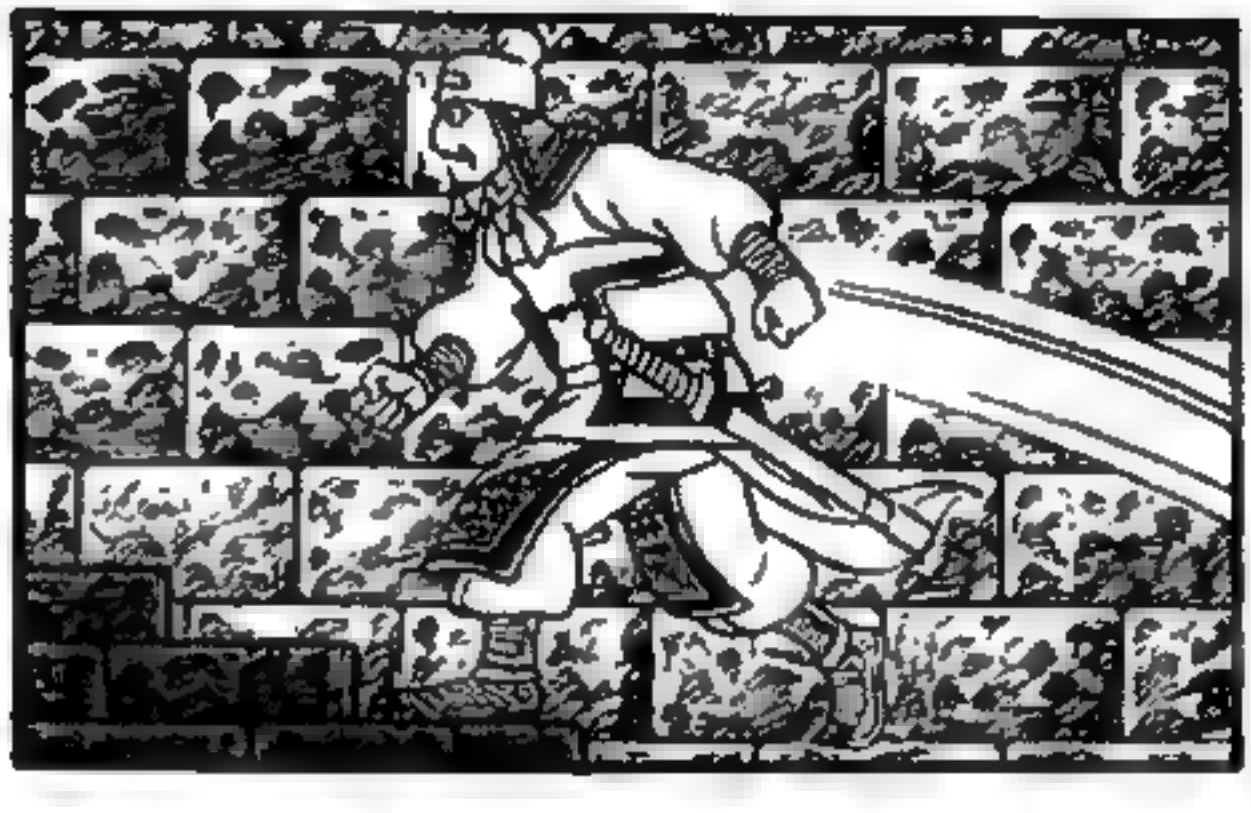
DON'T YOU SEE WHAT GUAN YU'S DOING!?
SAVE!?

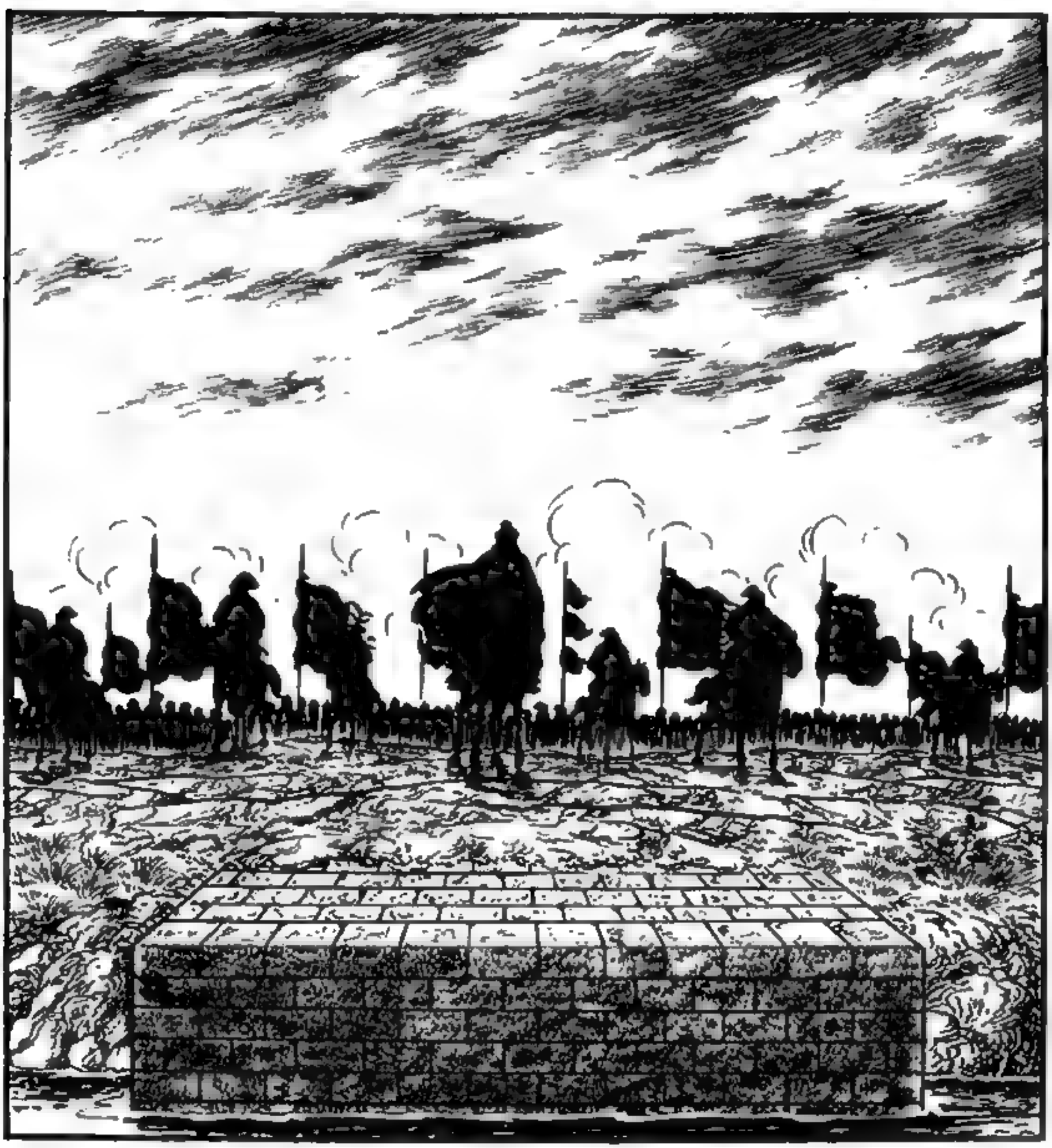
SIR!

EVEN IF YOU CAN DEFEND THIS CITY, YOU WILL NOT ESCAPE HIS PUNISHMENT.
AGHH!

WHAT!?
THE WU ARMY HAS BEEN SPOTTED!

AHH!





NGHH...

CAPITAL PUNISH-MENT FOR A DELAY OF JUST THREE DAYS! IS THERE EVEN A NEED TO THINK ABOUT THIS ANYMORE!?

MNN...

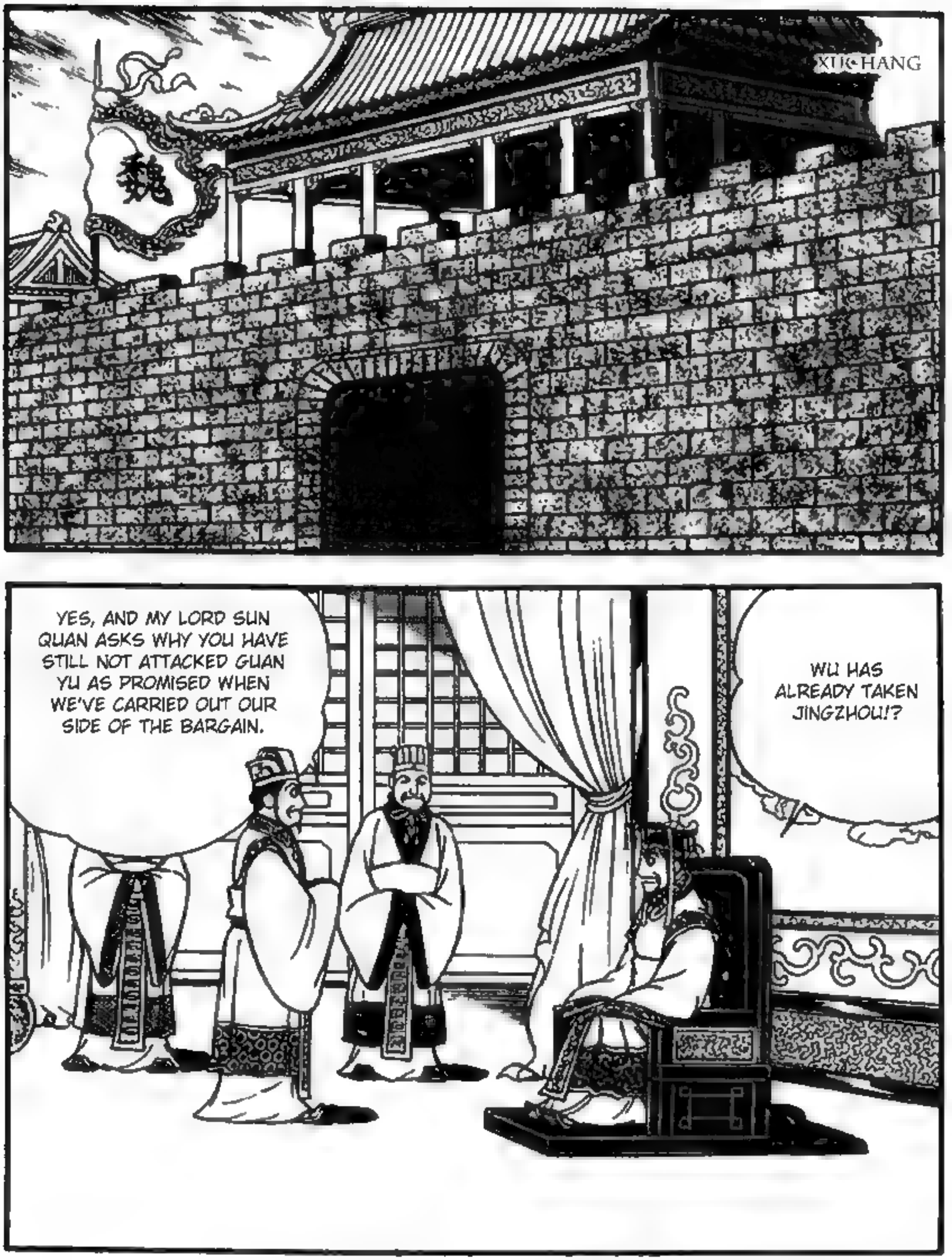
WELL, MI FANG? DO YOU STILL THINK YOU CAN SEND THE GRAIN NOW?

...VERY WELL. I WILL SURREN-DER.

WHY DO YOU HESITATE TO CHOOSE YOUR ONLY PATH FOR SURVIVAL!?

THE GATES OF NANJUN WERE OPENED AND MI FANG SURRENDERED TO WU

STINGING DEFEAT

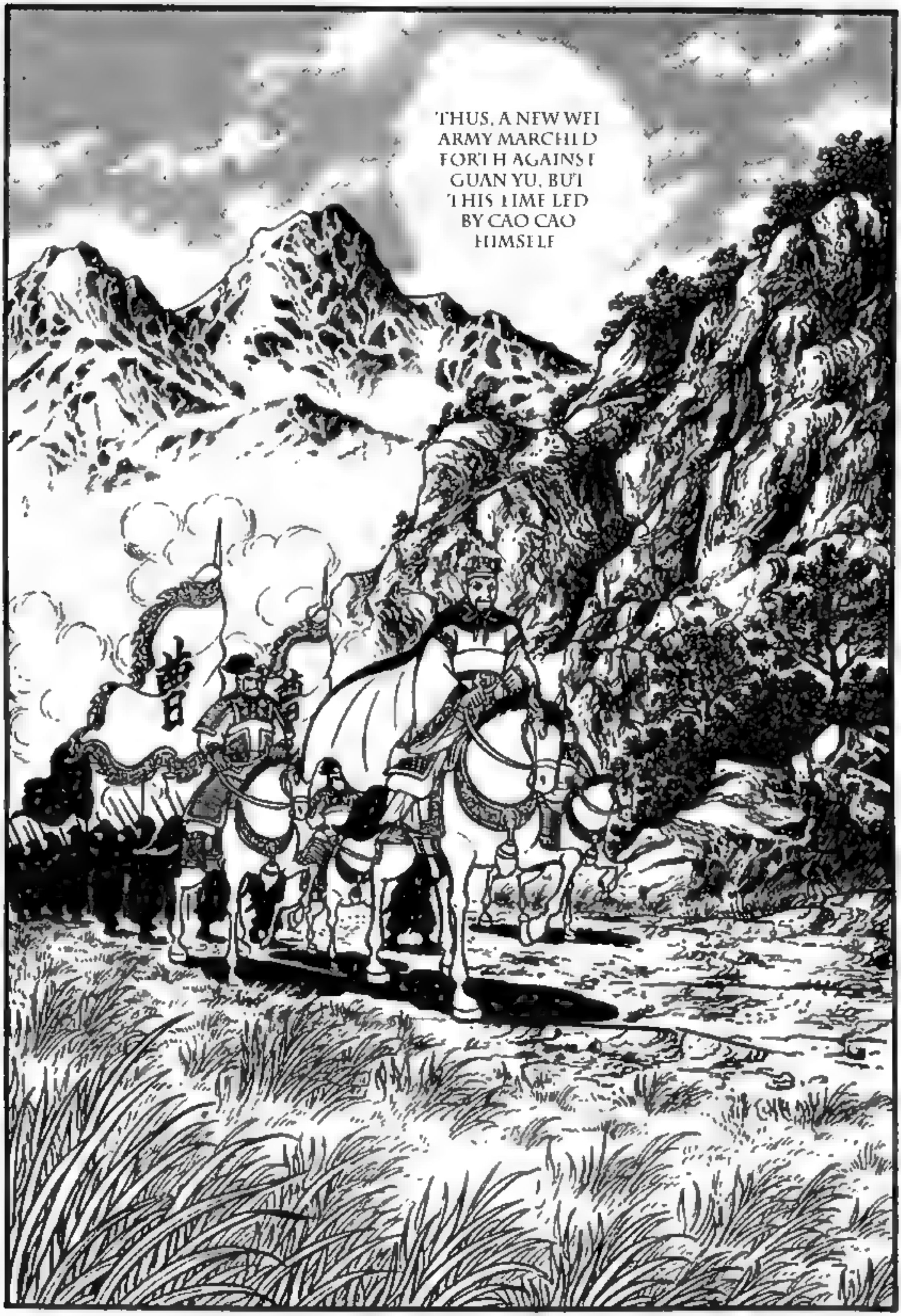

XU-CHANG
魏
YES, AND MY LORD SUN QUAN ASKS WHY YOU HAVE STILL NOT ATTACKED GUAN YU AS PROMISED WHEN WE'VE CARRIED OUT OUR SIDE OF THE BARGAIN.
WU HAS ALREADY TAKEN JINGZHOU!?

YES, SIR.

TELL SUN QUAN, I WILL IMMEDIATELY SEND A NEW ARMY AGAINST GUAN YU.

AH YES, YOUR COMPLAINT IS WELL JUSTIFIED. REST ASSURED, I HAVE NOT BEEN IDLY PASSING THE TIME AWAY. I HAVE BEEN BUSY PREPARING A NEW ARMY TO SEND.

YOU HEARD THE NEWS, GENTLEMEN. IT'S TIME FOR US TO PRESS ON THE ATTACK TO GUAN YU!


THUS, A NEW WEI ARMY MARCHED FORTH AGAINST GUAN YU, BUT THIS TIME LED BY CAO CAO HIMSELF

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YES, AND HE'S ALREADY PASSED THROUGH LUOYANG.

OUR HIGHNESS HAS SET OUT PERSONALLY?

YES, SIR.

YES, TELL HIM I'LL PROCEED AT ONCE.

HE ORDERS YOU TO SWITCH TO THE OFFENSIVE AND ATTACK GUAN YU AT FANCHENG.

YES?

YES?

LU QIAN! XU SHANG!

HIS SON GUAN PING IS ENCAMPED AT YENCHENG AND LIAO HUA AT SIZHONG. THEY HAVE BUILT A SERIES OF 12 STOCKADES TO ENCLOSE FANCHENG.

OUR HIGHNESS HAS GIVEN US THE ORDER TO GO ON THE OFFENSIVE. WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF GUAN YU'S FORCES BESIEGING FANCHENG?

YES, SIR.

IN THE MEANWHILE, I WILL SWING AROUND THE MIAN RIVER TO SURPRISE THEM FROM THE REAR.

TAKE MY BANNER AND ATTACK YENCHENG FROM THE FRONT.

ド"
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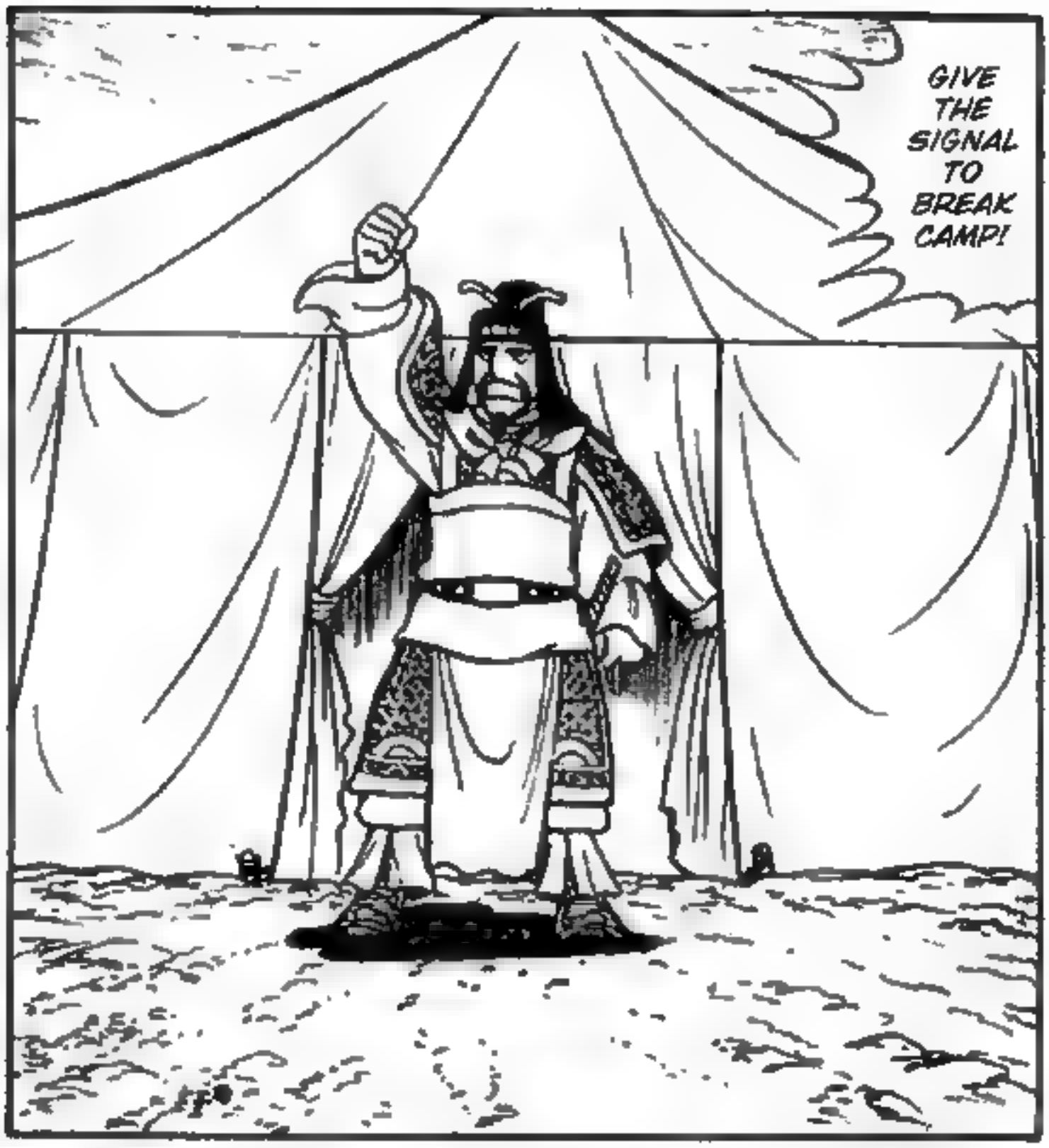
GIVE THE SIGNAL TO BREAK CAMP!

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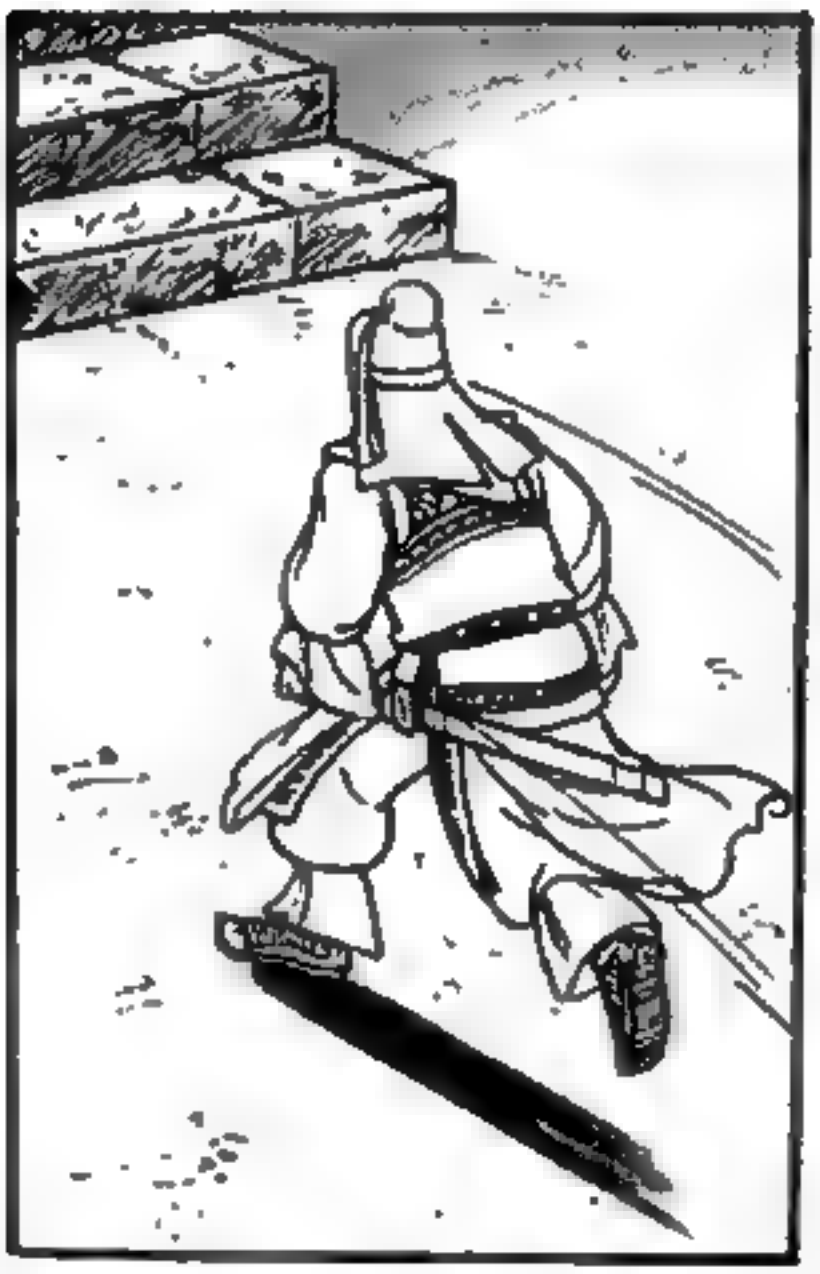
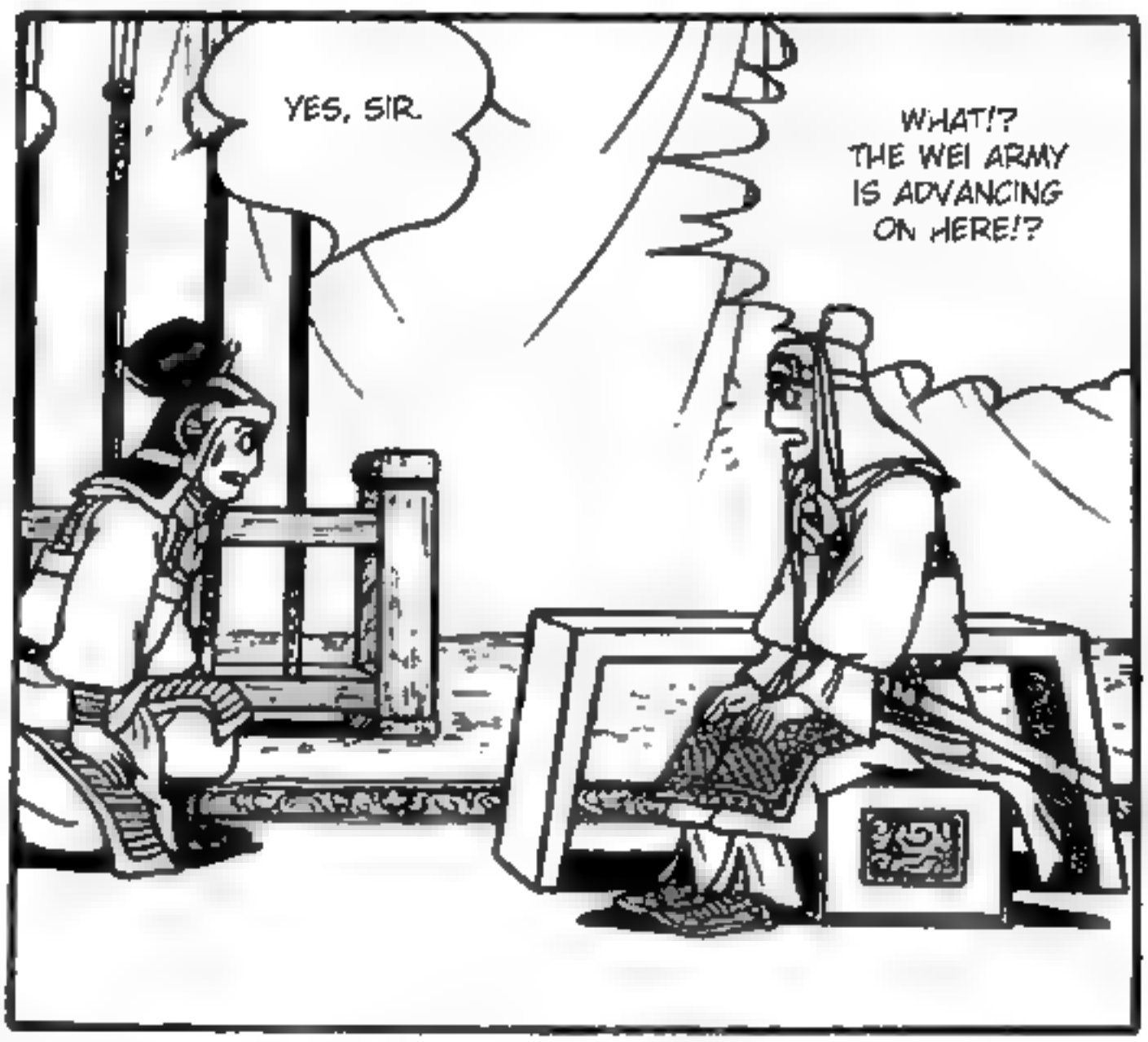
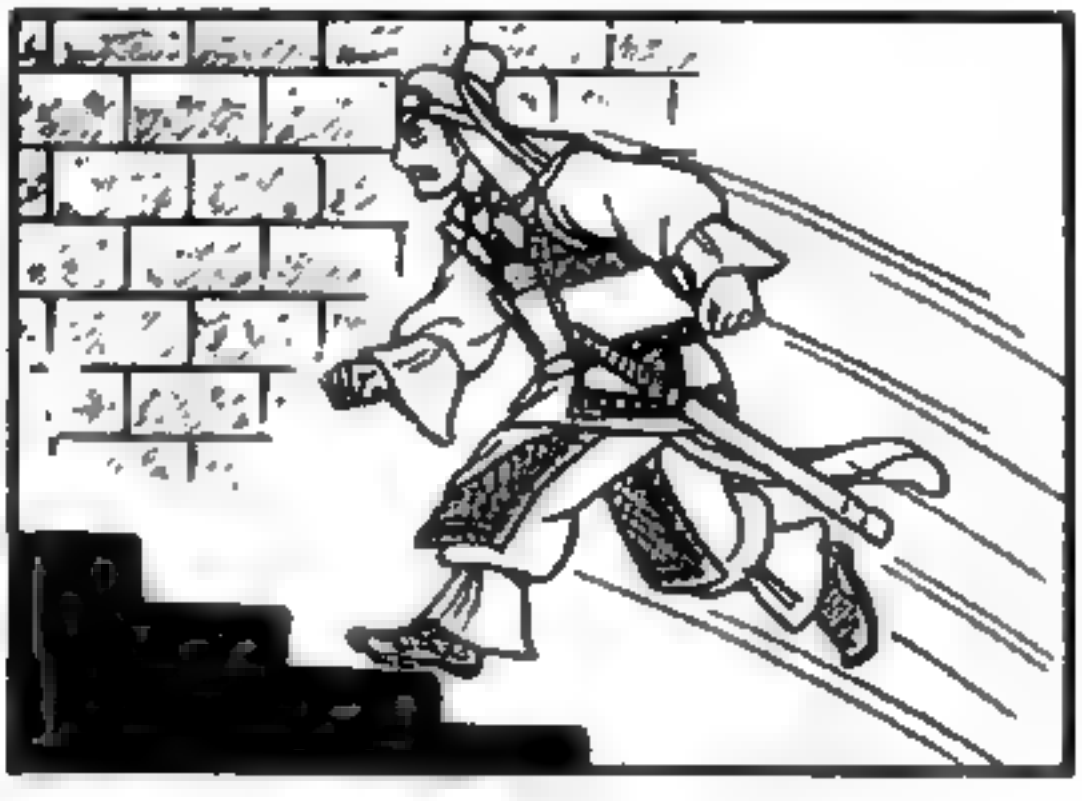
YENCHENG




YES, SIR.
WHAT!? THE WEI ARMY IS ADVANCING ON HERE!?

AHH!



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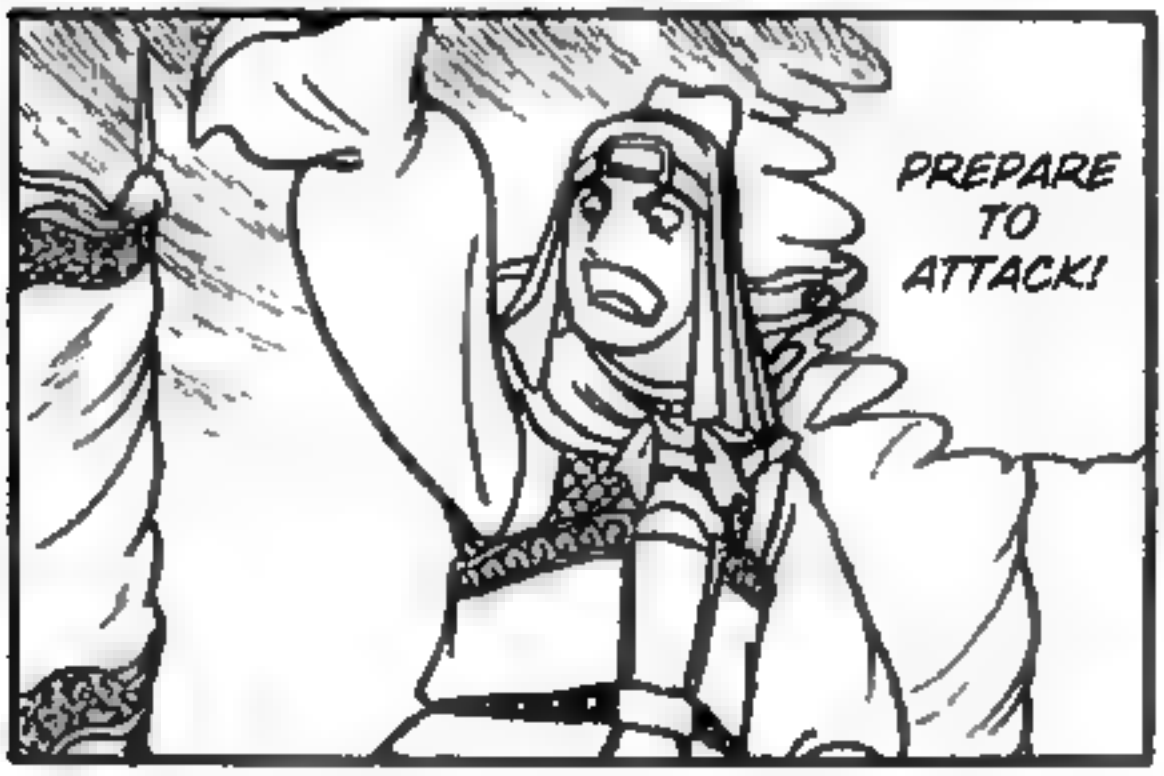
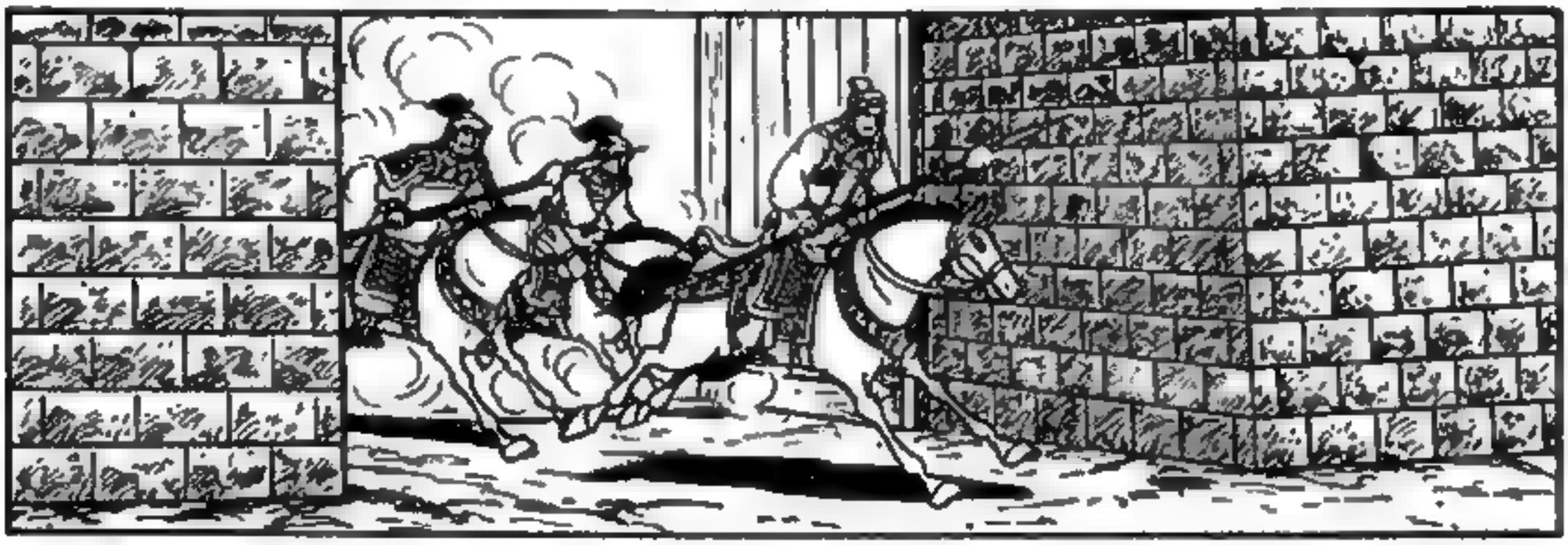
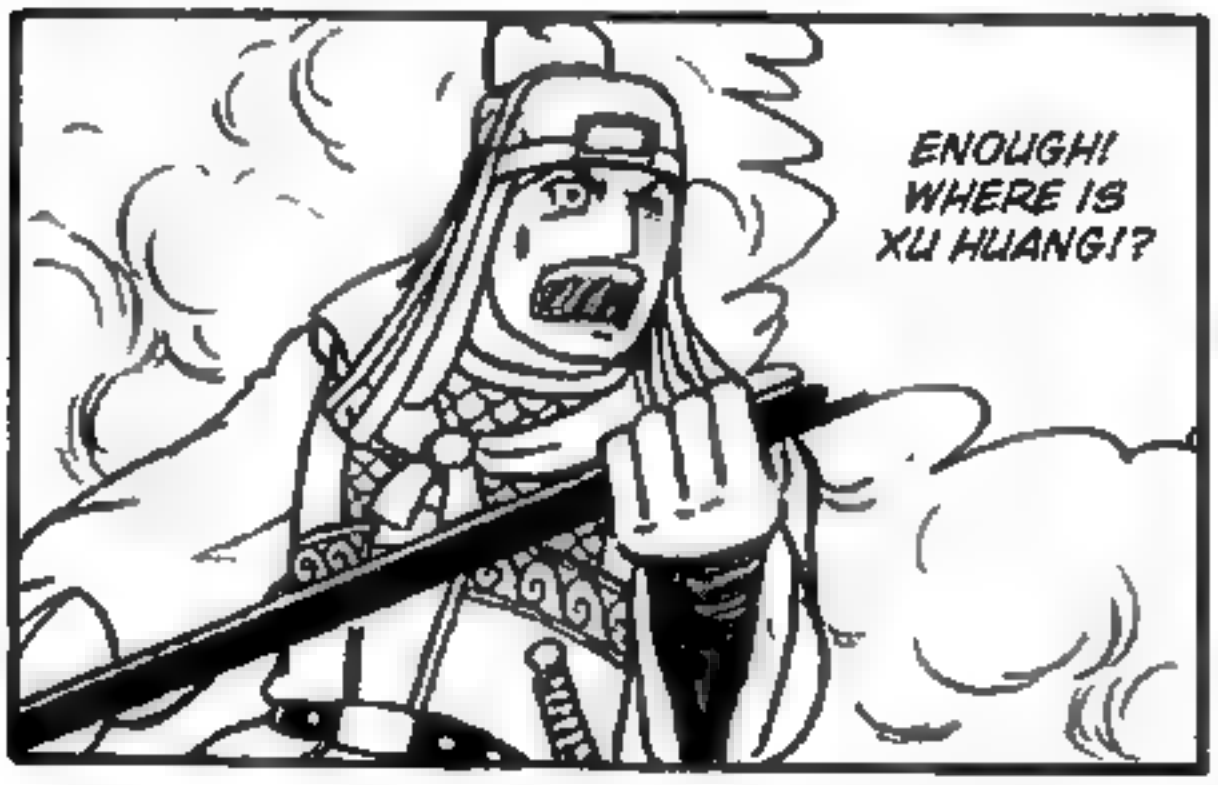

PREPARE TO ATTACK!

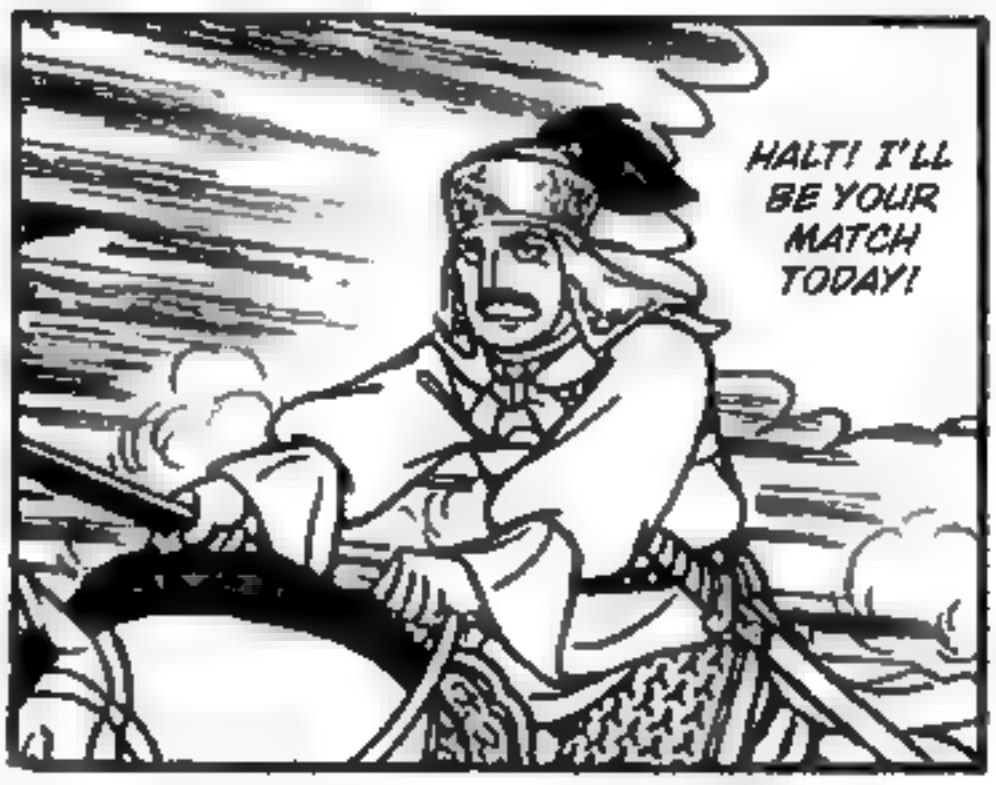
THAT'S THE BANNER OF THE ENEMY COMMANDER, XU HUANG! A WORTHY FOE, INDEED...

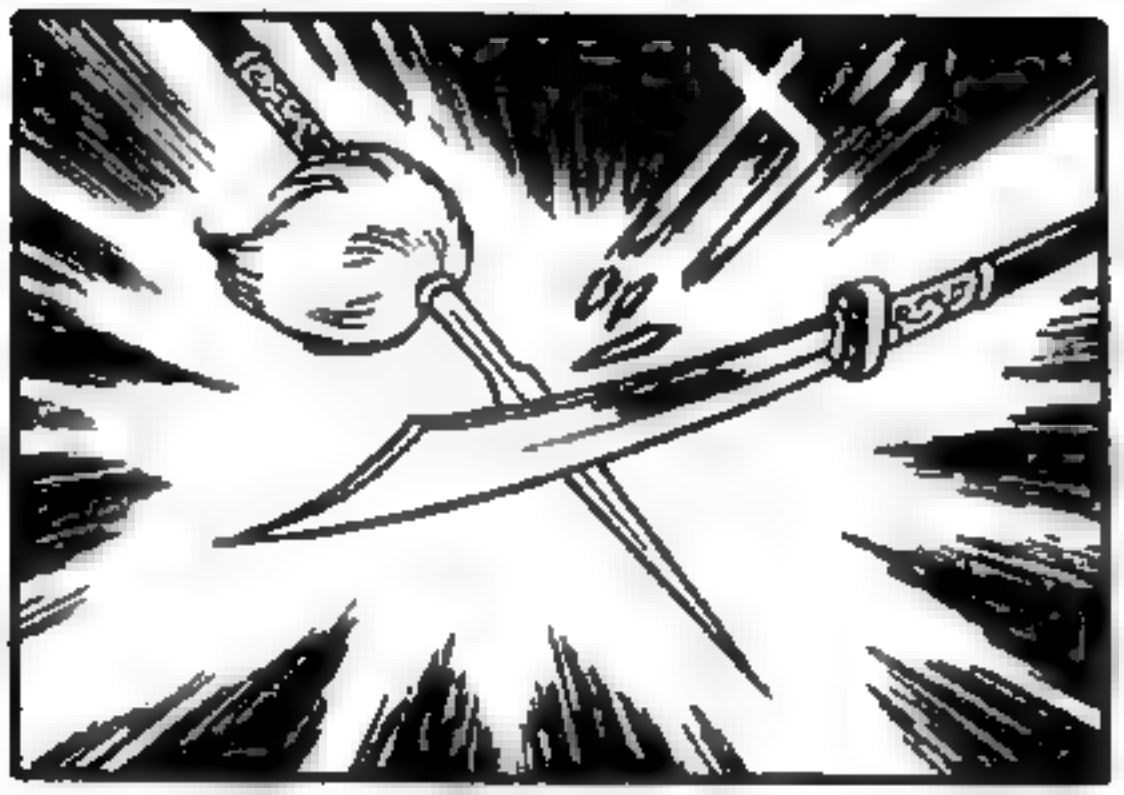


I CAME TO FIGHT XU HUANG, NOT SOME NAMELESS UNDER-LING!

DON'T THINK A WHELP LIKE YOU CAN MAKE IT OUT OF THIS BATTLE ALIVE!

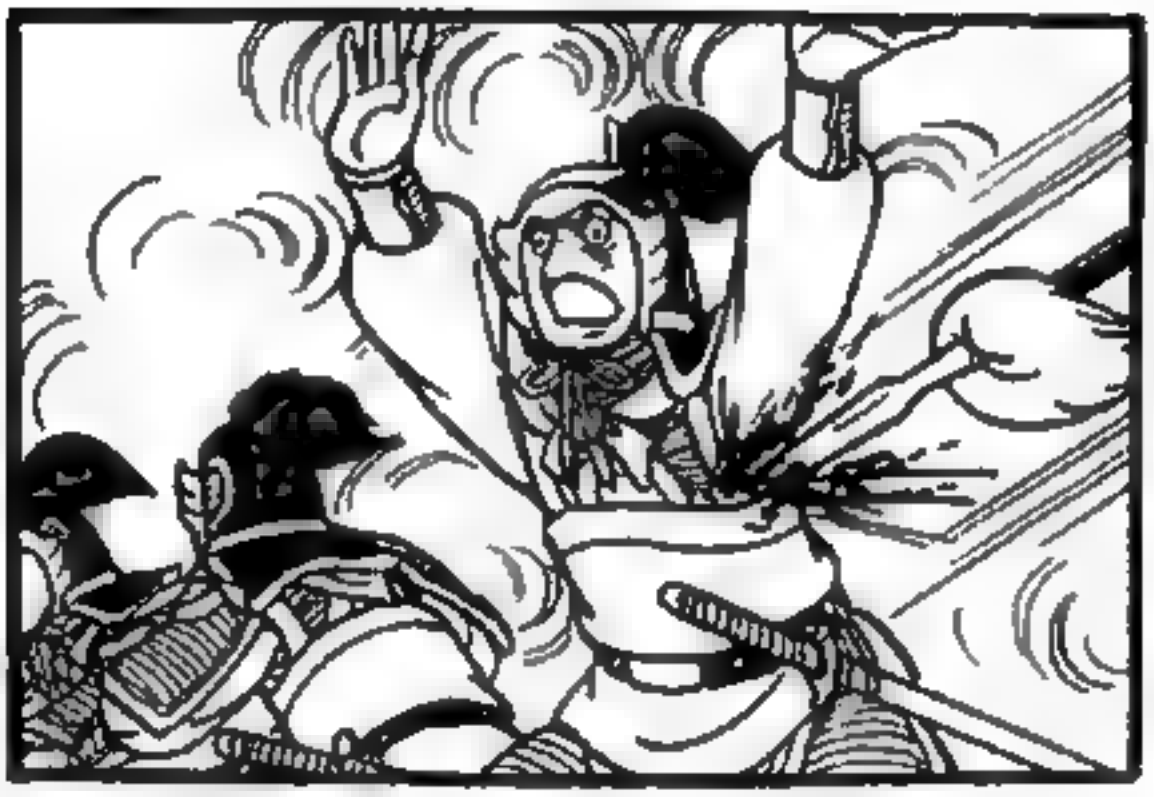

ENOUGH! WHERE IS XU HUANG!?


HALT! I'LL BE YOUR MATCH TODAY!



RUNNING AWAY, COWARD!?

THE ENEMY LINES HAVE CRUMBLED! PURSUE THEM!



AHH!

HM?
SIR!

WHAT!?

GUAN PING! SHOULD YOU REALLY BE RUNNING AROUND LIKE A HEADLESS CHICKEN HERE WHEN SUN QUAN HAS CAPTURED JINGZHOU?

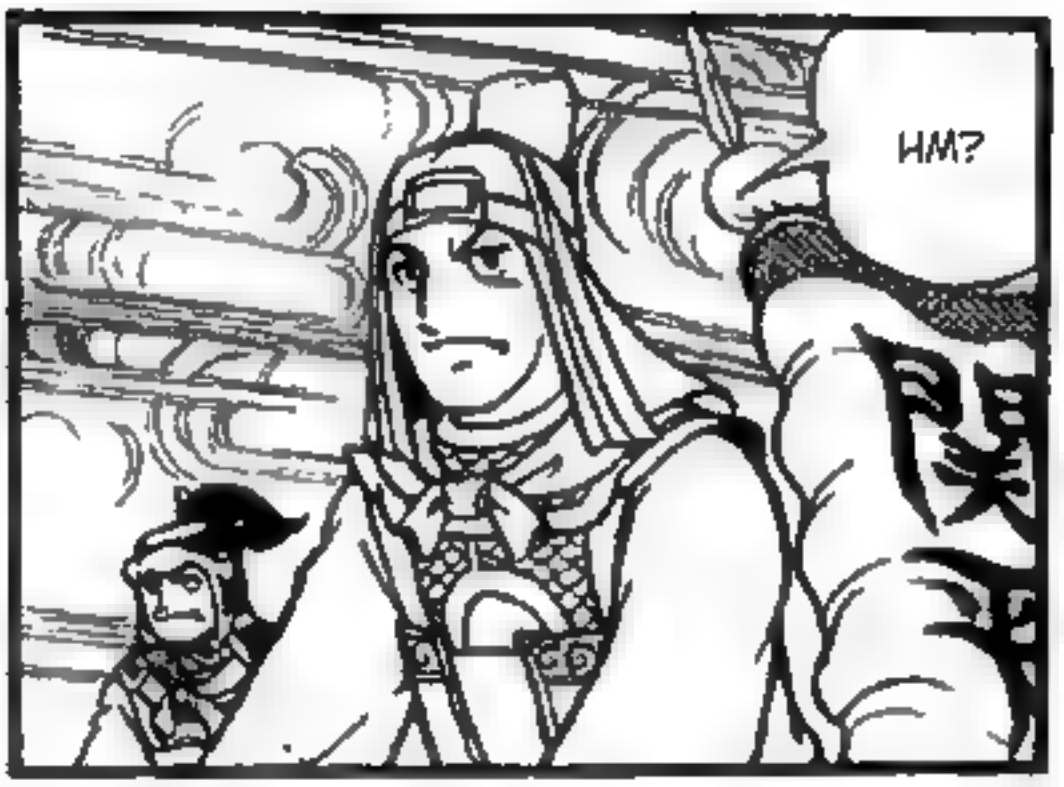
ATTACK!

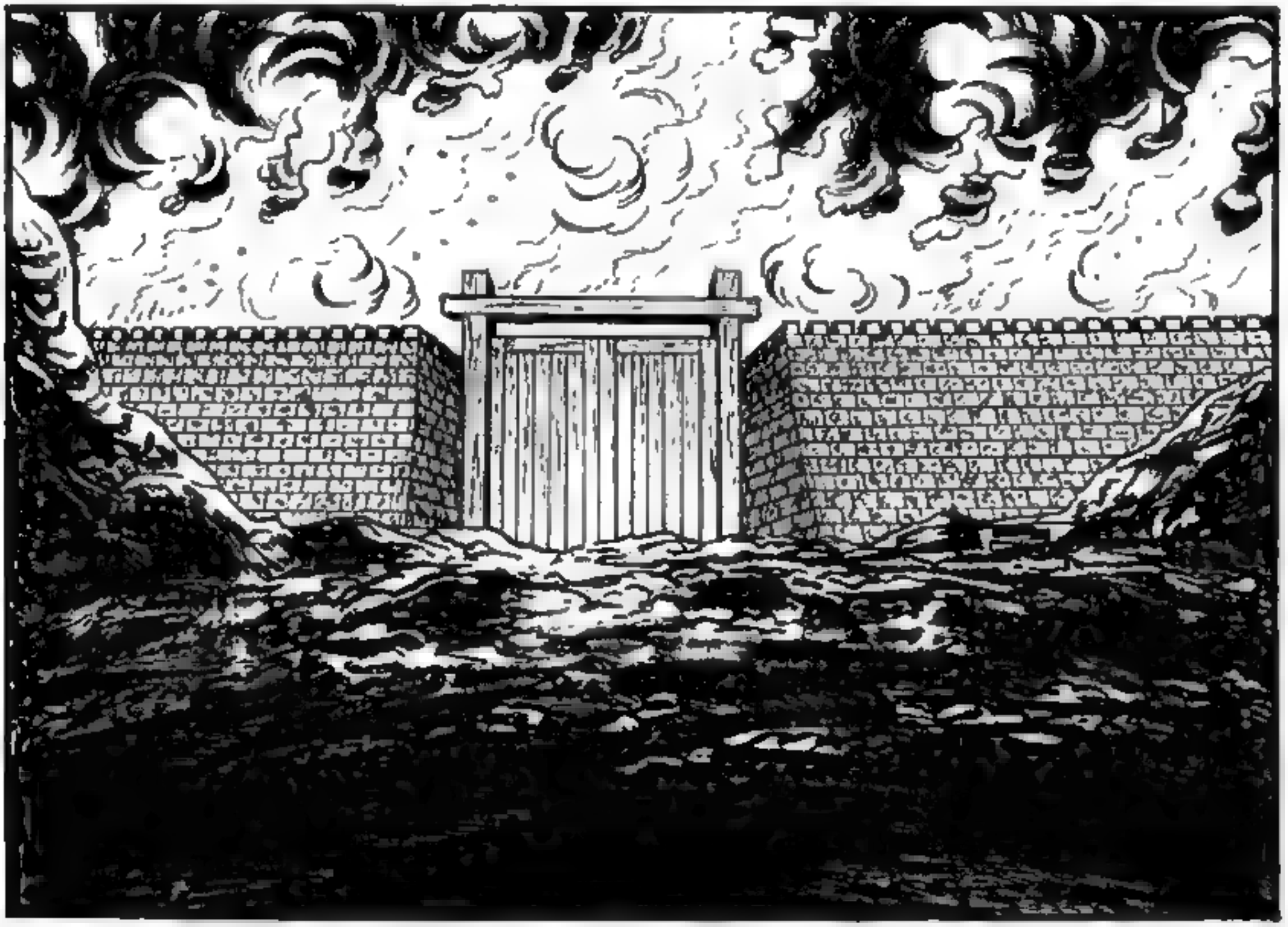
N-NO... THAT CAN'T BE...

COULD JINGZHOU REALLY HAVE FALLEN...?

R-RETREAT! RETREAT!

AHH!

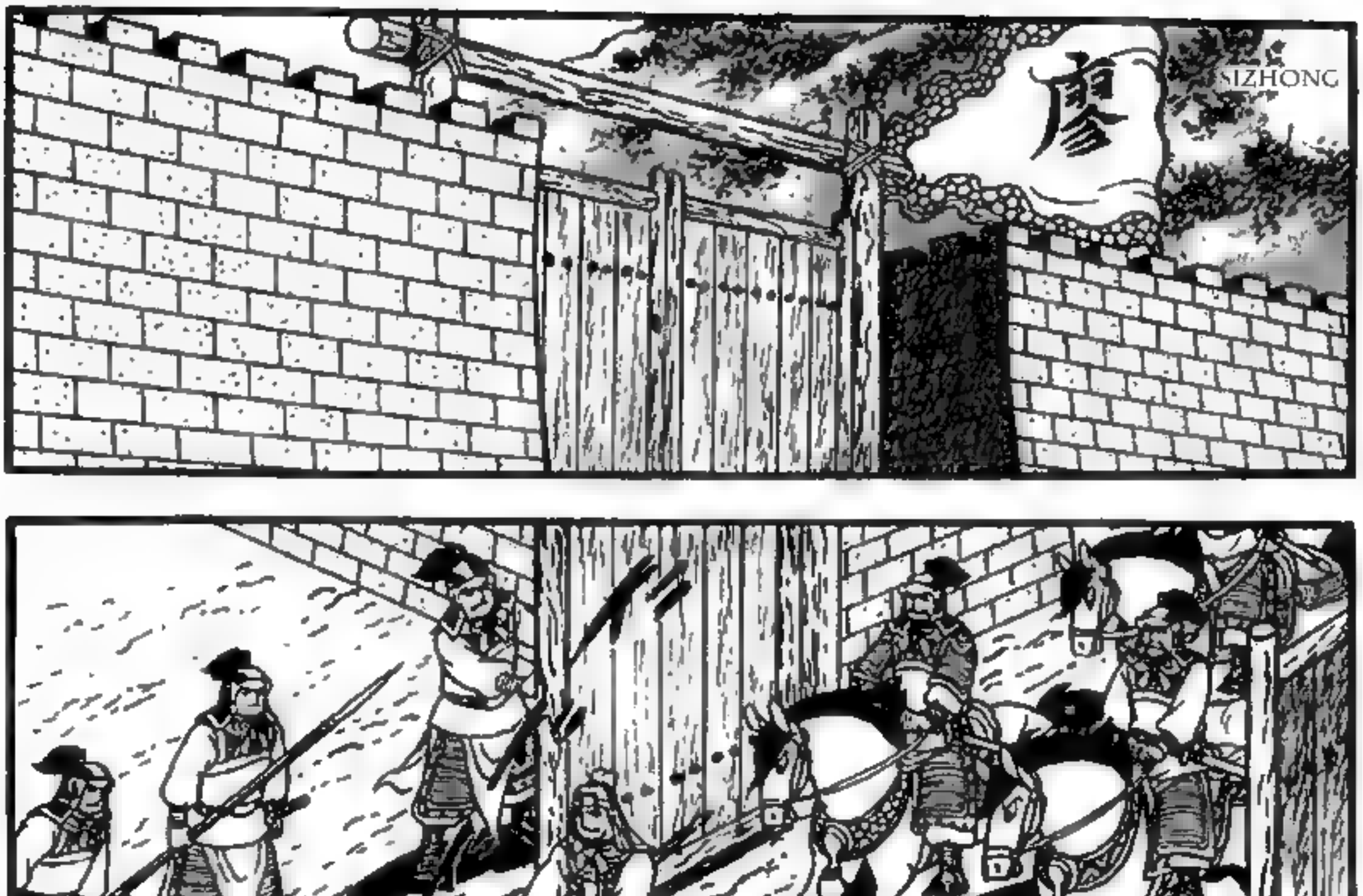

HM?

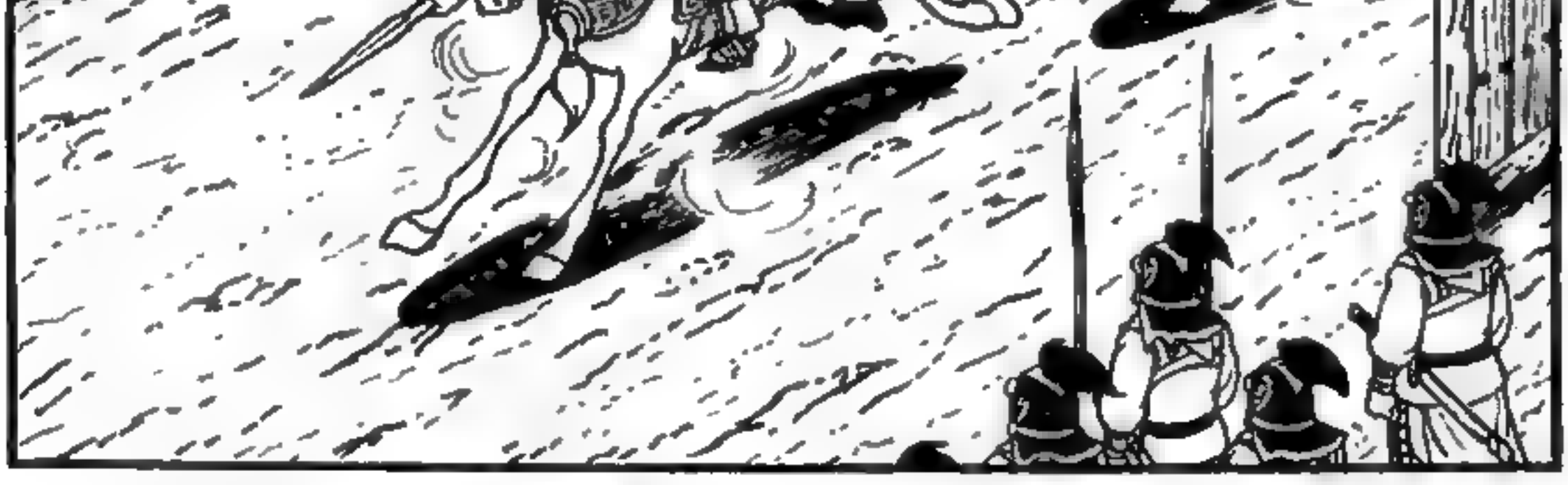


CURSES, I'VE BEEN COMPLETELY HAD BY XU HUANG!

YENCHENG IS ON FIRE!?

FALL BACK TO SIZHONG!


SIZHONG


GUAN PING?

I'VE BEEN HEARING RUMOURS THAT JINGZHOU HAS FALLEN TO WU. DO YOU THINK IT COULD BE TRUE?
IT'S NOTHING BUT VILE HEARSAY!
LISTEN UP, MEN! ANYONE WHO CONCERNS HIMSELF WITH THESE BASELESS RUMOURS INTENDED TO DEMORALIZE OUR FORCES WILL BE CUT DOWN BY MY SWORD!

YES.

MORE IMPORT-ANTLY, WE MUST COME UP WITH A NEW PLAN TO COUNTER THE WEI FORCES.

ACCORDING TO THE SCOUTS, THE ENEMIES HAVE ALREADY ADVANCED ALL THE WAY TO THE NEXT HILL OVER, BUT IT IS A BARREN HILL UNSUITED FOR DEFENCE.

LEAVING THE STOCKADE TO ATTACK?

ON THE OTHER HAND, OUR POSITION HERE IS EASILY DEFENDABLE WITH EVEN FEW FORCES. AS SUCH, I'D LIKE TO PROPOSE AN AMBUSH AT NIGHT.

ONCE I START ROUTING THE PANICKED ENEMIES TONIGHT, MUSTER THE TROOPS IN THE STOCKADES TO FINISH THEM OFF.

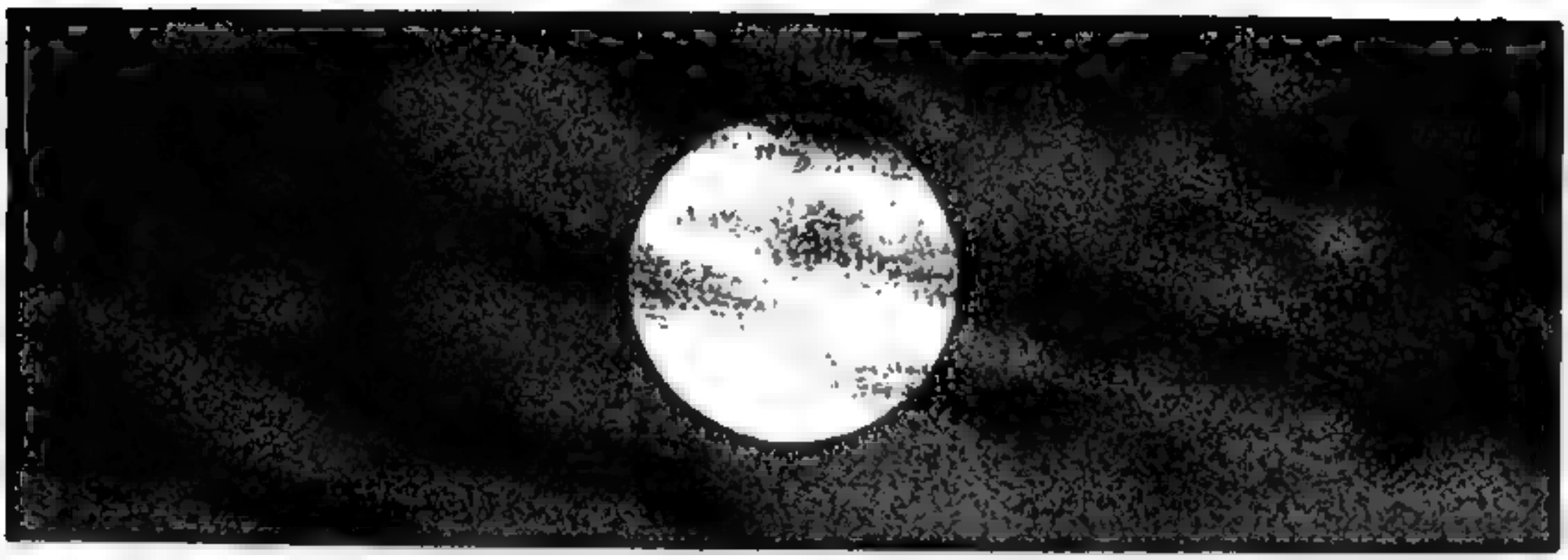
AGREED.

THE SERIES OF STOCKADES ARE ALL INTERCONNECTED SO EVEN LOSING ONE MAY COMPROMISE THE OTHER POSITIONS. WE MUST DRIVE THE ENEMIES BACK AT ONCE.

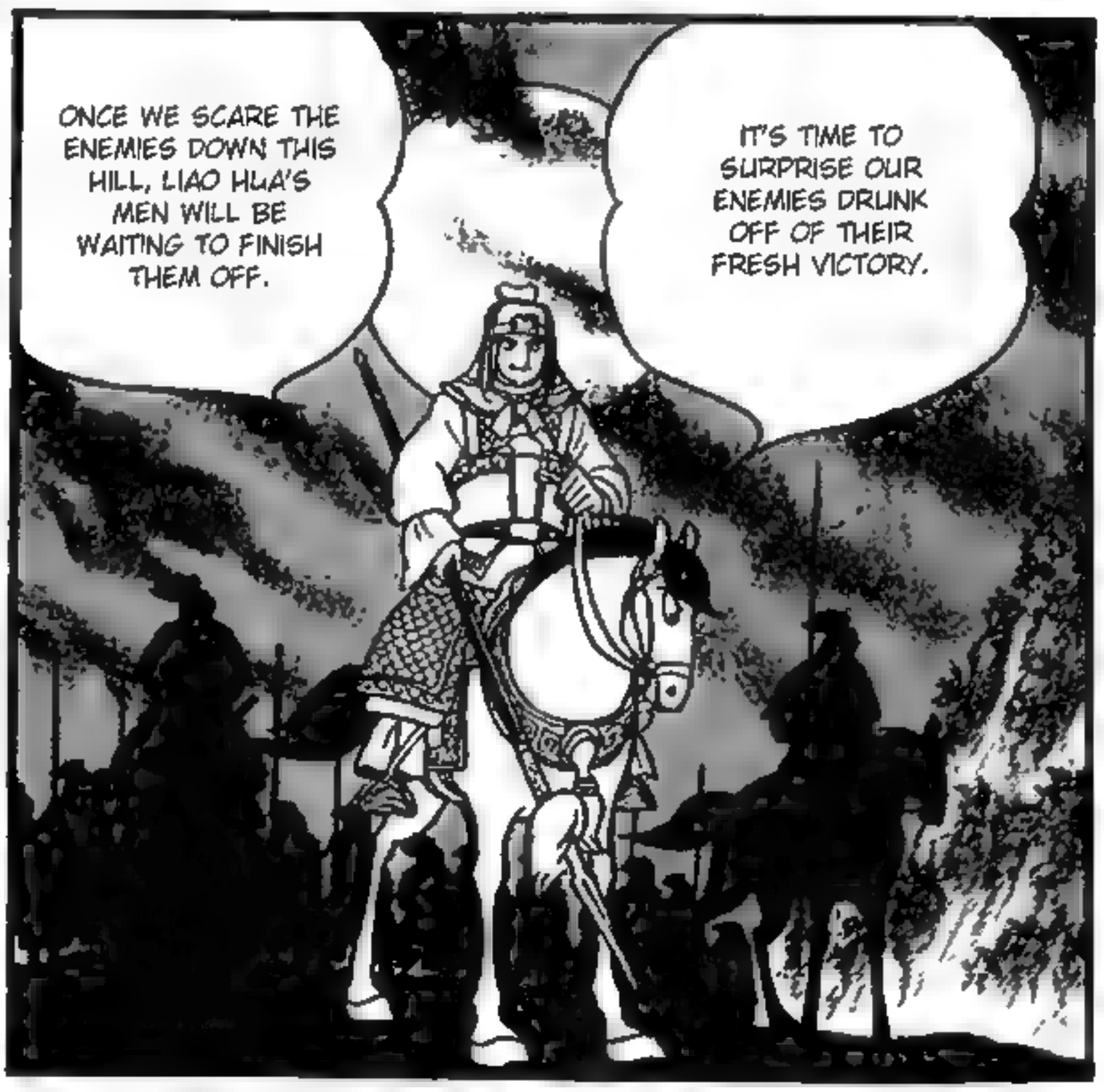
GUAN PING FELT PRESSURED TO QUICKLY MAKE UP FOR HIS FAILURE OF LOSING YENCHENG

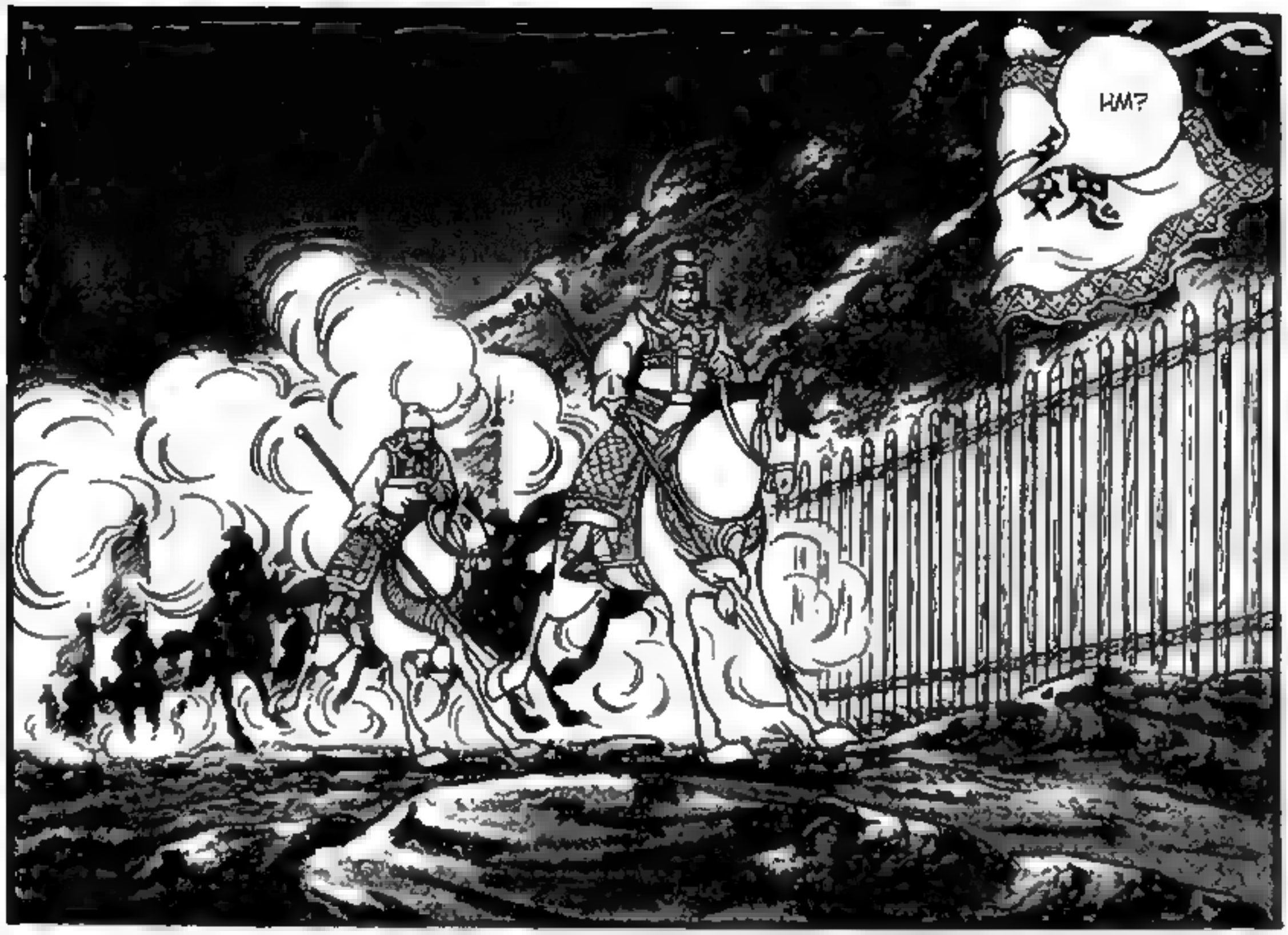
AND I WILL PREPARE FOR THE RAID.

UNDERSTOOD. I WILL BEGIN ASSEMBLING MY TROOPS.



ATTACK!


ONCE WE SCARE THE ENEMIES DOWN THIS HILL, LIAO HUA'S MEN WILL BE WAITING TO FINISH THEM OFF.
IT'S TIME TO SURPRISE OUR ENEMIES DRUNK OFF OF THEIR FRESH VICTORY.


HM?

HOW CAN THAT BE!?

SIR, THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE ENEMIES!

AHH!

CURSES! THEY WERE ANTICIPAT-ING US!

RETREAT!
RETREAT!

HOWEVER,
THE ENEMIES
POURED FORTH
EVEN AFTER
GUAN PING
RETREATED
ONTO THE
OPEN PLAINS

LIAO HUA'S FORCES
PROVED UNABLE
TO STOP THIS
FIERCE ADVANCE,

AND WERE
PUSHED
BACK TO
SIZHONG

AHH!

AHH!

CAPTURE THOSE TWO FOOLS!

DID YOU REALLY THINK I COULDN'T ANTICIPATE A SINGLE NIGHT RAID!?

MN...

WE'VE LOST OUR POSITION HERE. WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RETREAT ALL THE WAY TO FANCHENG!

關平
DID YOUR FATHER ONLY EVER TEACH YOU TO RUN AWAY!?
HALT, GUAN PING!

GUAN PING HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY BEATEN BACK

I CAN SAY NOTHING IN MY DEFENSE, FATHER.

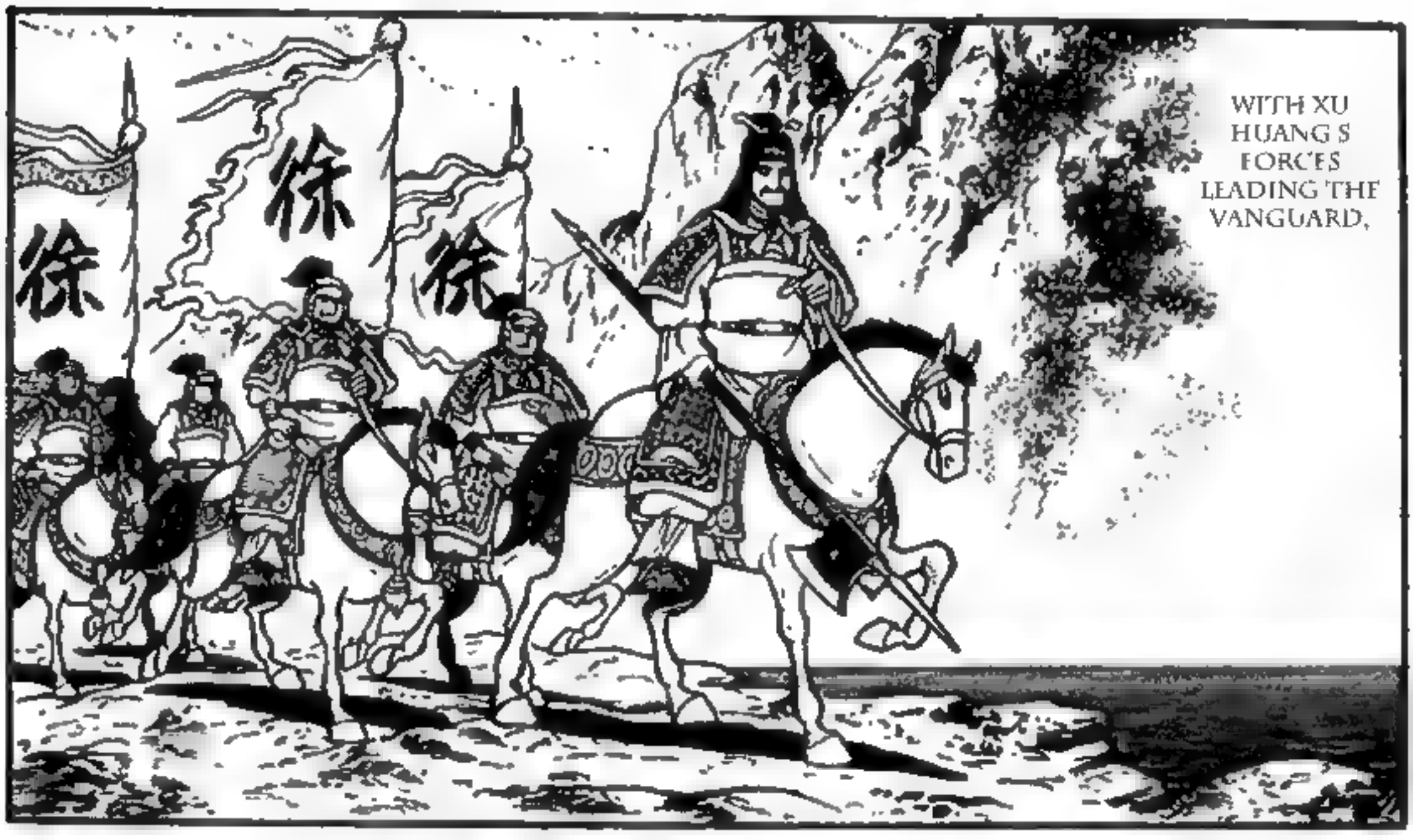
SO YOU WERE DEFEATED?

THERE IS... ALSO A RUMOUR GOING AROUND THAT JINGZHOU HAS FALLEN TO WU.

BOTH VICTORY AND DEFEAT ARE COMMONPLACE FOR THE SOLDIER. DO NOT BROOD OVER YOUR LOSS.

DO NOT UTTER SUCH NONSENSE!
YES, THAT IS WHAT I THOUGHT AS WELL...
LUKOU'S NEW GENERAL LU XUN IS NOT ONLY INEXPERIENCED BUT ALSO TREMBLES BEFORE ME! EVEN IF HE WERE TO MAKE A MOVE AGAINST ME, THERE IS THE SERIES OF SMOKE BEACONS HE MUST FIRST FACE! THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT JINGZHOU'S DEFENSES ARE SECURE!
YES, FORGIVE ME, FATHER.
THEN PAY NO MORE HEED TO THESE VILE RUMOURS.

HOLDING OFF PURSUIT



THE WAVES OF WEI TROOPS ENGULFED HILLS AND PLAINS ALONG THEIR STEADY ADVANCE ON GUAN YU'S CAMP AT FANCHENG
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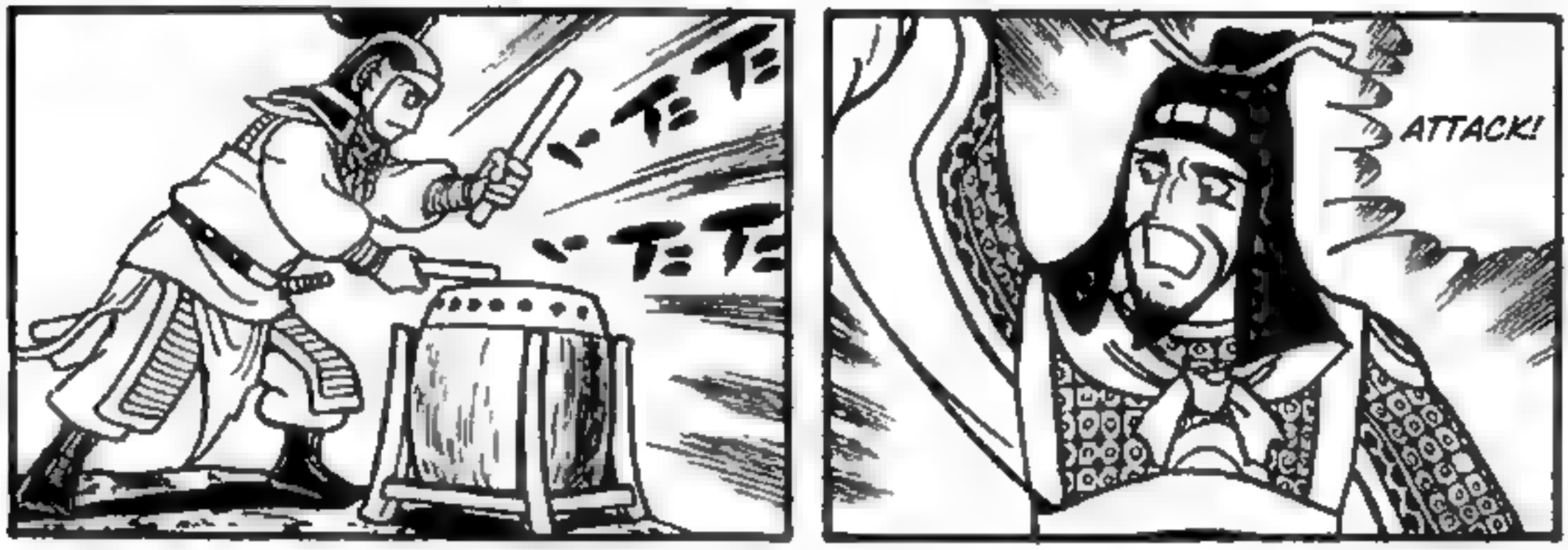
SO THEY'VE COME...

WEI TROOPS SPOTTED, SIR!

WE WILL GO MEET THEM!

ADVANCE!

AHH, SO GUAN YU COMES OUT AT LAST.


ATTACK!

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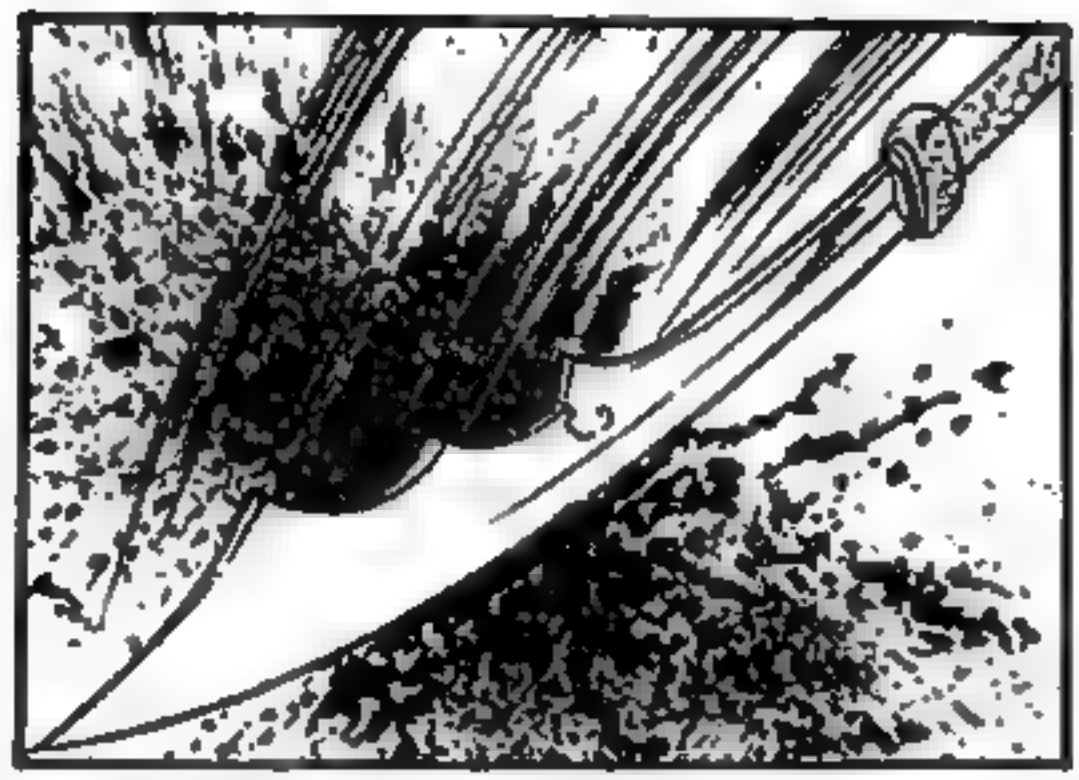

SEEING THAT REINFORCEMENTS HAD ARRIVED AT LAST, CAO REN ALSO LED OUT FANCHENG'S GARRISON TO SURROUND GUAN YU.

THIS CAUSED GUAN YU'S TROOPS TO WAVER.

AND THEY RETREATED UP THE XIANG RIVER

THE ROUSED WEI TROOPS PURSUED THEM DEEP INTO THE NIGHT

GUAN YU'S ARMY WAS SCATTERED.

AND THE BODIES OF DEAD SHU TROOPS WERE STREWN ALL ACROSS THE FIELD

GUAN YU
HAD FOR
TUNATELY
MANAGED
TO CROSS
THE RIVER
BACK TO
XIANGYANG

BUT HE HAD
LOST OVER
HALF OF HIS
FORCES BY
THIS POINT

NOT ONLY THAT, FU SHIREN AND MI FANG HAVE ALSO SURRENDERED GONGAN AND NANJUN TO WU AS WELL.

WHAT!? JINGZHOU HAS FALLEN TO WU!?

HOW CAN THIS BE...

FU SHIREN AND MI FANG HAVE BOTH SURRENDERED!?

WU TO OUR FRONT, AND WEI TO OUR REAR... WE'RE TRAPPED IN OUR CURRENT POSITION.

WHAT SHALL WE DO, SIR?

HOW CAN I EVER FACE MY ELDER BROTHER AGAIN?

MN...

SIR, WE MUST REQUEST FOR REINFORCEMENTS FROM CHENGDU AND RECOVER JINGZHOU.

YES, SIR.

HEAD FOR CHENGDU AT ONCE AND ASK FOR REINFORCE-MENTS.

MA LIANG! YI JI!

YES?

曲日
曲日
曲日
禾女心
YES, HE SEEMS TO BE IN A QUANDARY OVER THE HIGH CASUALTIES HIS ARMY HAS RECENTLY SUFFERED.
GUAN YU IS HELD UP AT XIANGYANG?

禾女
MAY I HAVE A WORD, GENERAL?
SPLENDID. LET US KEEP PRESSING ON THE ATTACK.

YOU'RE TELLING ME TO CALL OFF THE PURSUIT?

AS THE OLD ADAGE GOES, "EVEN A CORNERED RAT WILL BITE BACK AT THE CAT." WITH GUAN YU PRESSED BACK AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, WE MUST BE PREPARED TO SUFFER HIGH CASUALTIES IF WE ARE TO PUSH HIM ANY FURTHER.

IF WE SIMPLY LEAVE HIM BE, HE WILL MOST DEFINITELY TRY TO RECOVER JINGZHOU.

A WISE CHOICE, SIR.

VERY WELL, I WILL CALL OFF THE PURSUIT.

AHH, SO WE CAN JUST LET SUN QUAN DEAL WITH THE GUAN YU-PROBLEM!

YES, LET WU SUFFER THE COSTS OF DEALING WITH A DESPERATE GUAN YU.

AND SO, BOTH CAO REN AND XU HUANG'S FORCES FELL BACK TO REUNITE WITH THE MAIN BODY

FOR OVERCOMING THE 12 STOCKADES AND FORCING GUAN YU TO LIFT THE SIEGE ON FANCHENG, XU HUANG WAS REWARDED WITH THE TITLE "GENERAL WHO PACIFIES THE SOUTH"
曹
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WELL-LAID PLAN

WHEN LU MENG WAS AT LUKOU, HE OFTEN WROTE LETTERS TO YOU TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND PROPOSE A JOINT ATTACK ON WEI. BUT ALL OF A SUDDEN, HE HAS DECIDED TO SIDE WITH WEI AND TURN ON HIS FORMER ALLY. THIS IS THE ACTION OF A SCOUNDREL WITH NO MORAL FIBER.

ALAS, WE'RE CORNERED WITH REINFORCE-MENTS STILL YET TO COME.

XU HUANG IS CURRENTLY AT XIANGYANG AND CAO CAO AT MOPO.

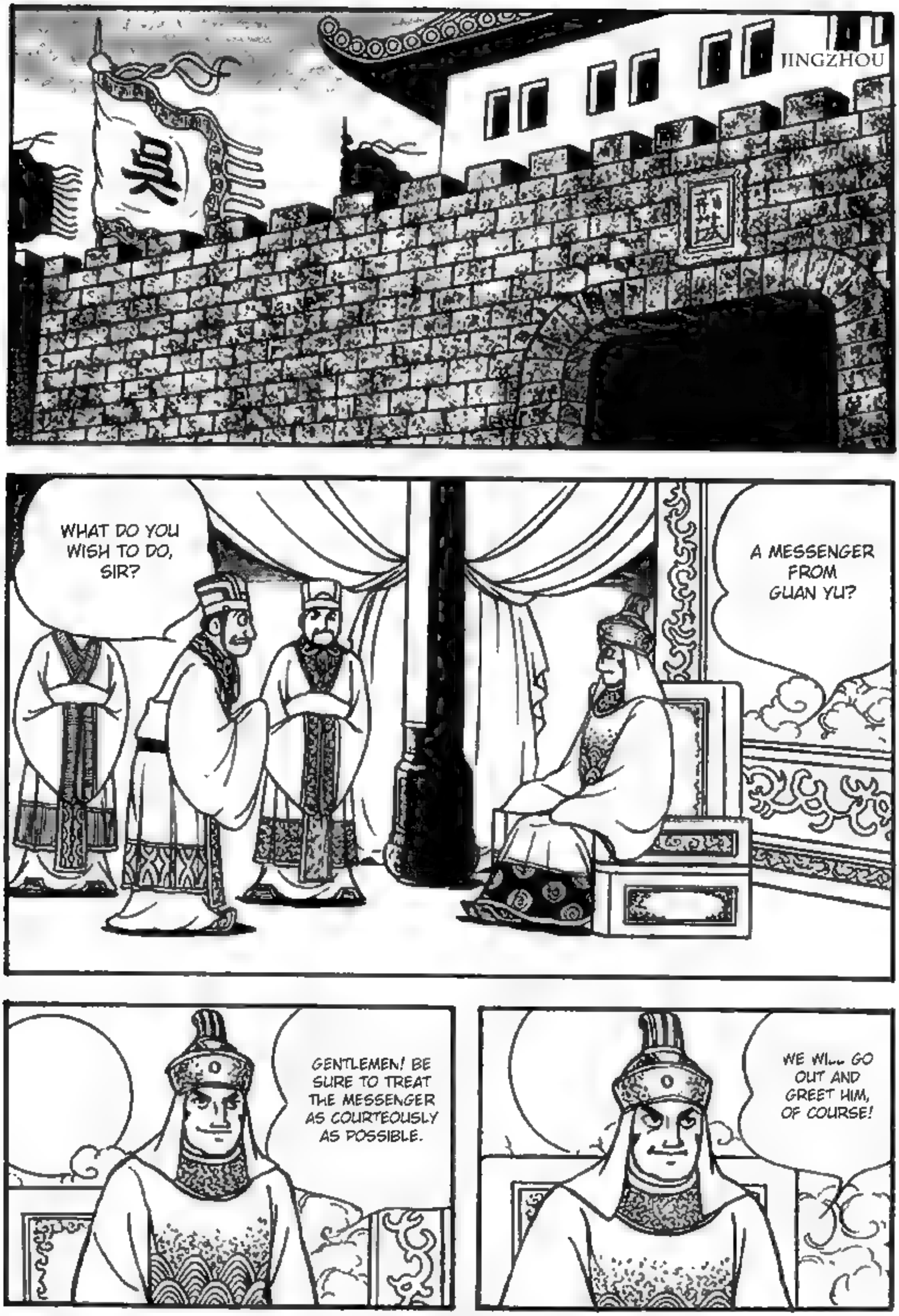
HE MAY STILL HARBOUR SOME INTENTION OF WORKING WITH US AGAINST WEI.

I SUGGEST WE SEND A MESSENGER TO LU MENG TO POINT THIS OUT AND APPEAL TO HIS SENSE OF HONOUR.

YES, SIR.

IT'S WORTH A TRY. SEND A MESSEN-GER AT ONCE.

HMM...


JINGZHOU
WHAT DO YOU WISH TO DO, SIR?
A MESSENGER FROM GUAN YU?
GENTLEMEN! BE SURE TO TREAT THE MESSENGER AS COURTEOUSLY AS POSSIBLE.
WE WILL GO OUT AND GREET HIM, OF COURSE!

WE WILL SHOW THEM JUST HOW THOROUGHLY THE PEOPLE OF JINGZHOU ARE ON OUR SIDE...
OF COURSE.
AHH, CAN I PRESUME YOU ALREADY HAVE A PLAN?
LET'S GIVE HIM A GRAND WELCOME, SHALL WE?

HEY, EVERYONE!
IS THAT TRUE!?
I HEARD GUAN YU'S MESSENGER IS ON HIS WAY HERE!
ALL THE YOUNG MEN OF JINGZHOU WERE RECRUITED INTO GUAN YU'S ARMY.
I WONDER HOW MY NEPHEW IS DOING...?
AND MY HUSBAND!
DOES THAT MEAN I CAN FINALLY FIND OUT IF MY SON IS STILL ALIVE AND WELL!?

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ﾀｯﾎﾟ

HM?

WELCOME, WELCOME! I, LU MENG, HAVE BEEN ANXIOUSLY AWAITING IN FRONT OF JINGZHOU'S GATES FOR I HEARD A MESSENGER FROM GUAN YU WAS SET TO ARRIVE.

IT... IT IS AN HONOUR THAT THE COMMANDER OF THE WU ARMED FORCES WOULD DEIGN TO GREET ME OUTSIDE THE GATES.

PLEASE, COME INSIDE THE CITY.

HM?

IS MY SON ALIVE!?

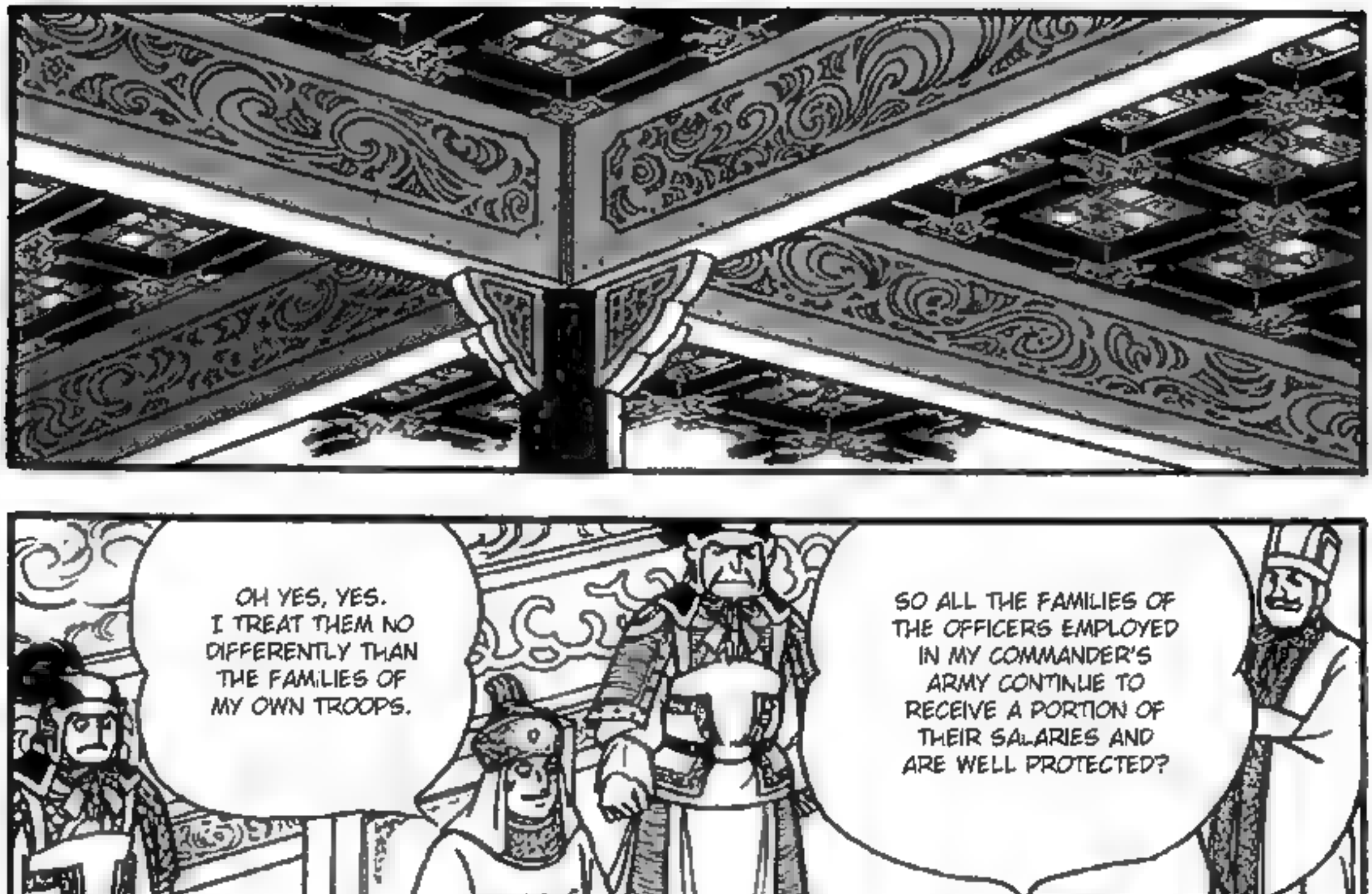
PLEASE, I NEED TO KNOW HOW MY HUSBAND IS DOING!

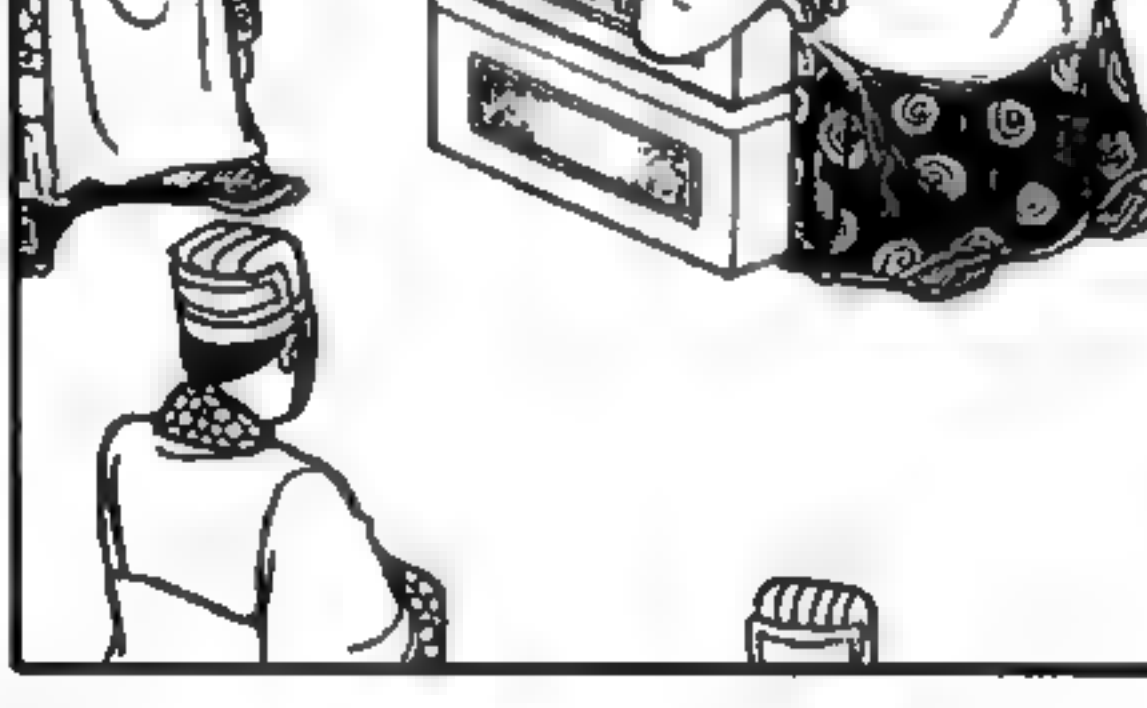
PRAY TELL, HOW IS COMMANDER GUAN YU FARING AT FANCHENG?

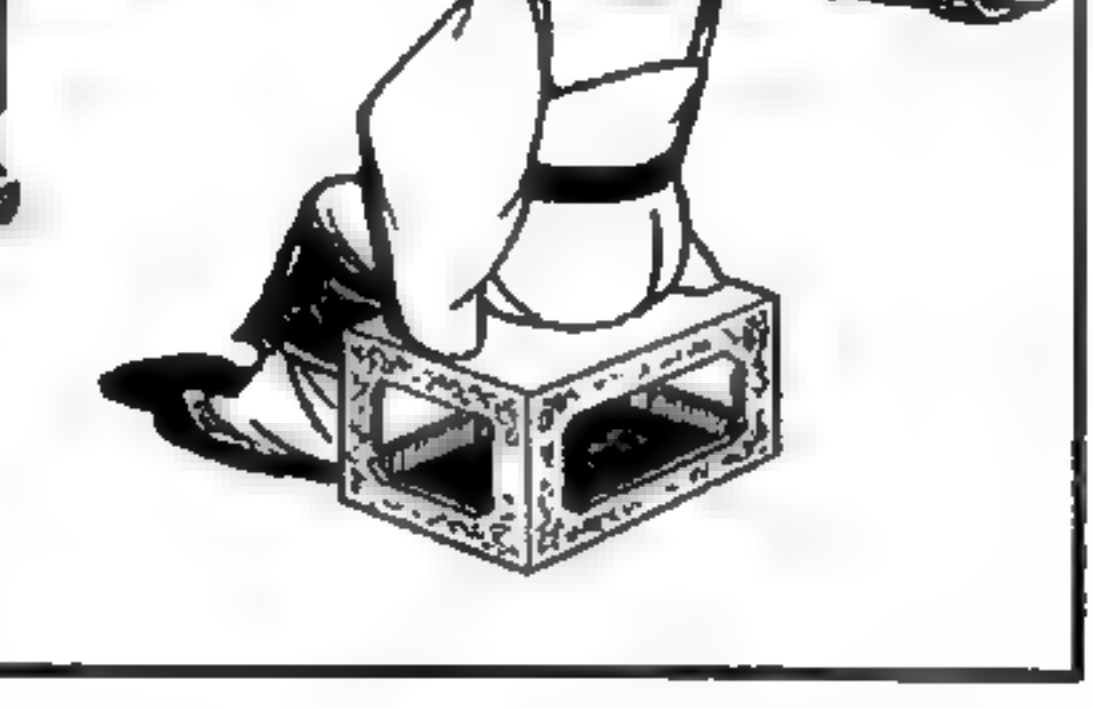
WHY NOT PASS HIM A LETTER AS HE LEAVES WHICH HE CAN PASS ONTO YOUR DEAR RELATIVES?

NOW, NOW. HOW CAN HE POSSIBLY ANSWER IF YOU ALL SWARM HIM AT ONCE?

OH, WE WOULD ALL BE SO GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD DO THAT FOR US, SIR!
HAND A LETTER ON HIS WAY BACK?
Y-YES, SIR...
WELL, YOU HEARD THEM. I TRUST THAT YOU CAN DELIVER A FEW LETTERS FOR THE SAKE OF THE PEOPLE CONCERNED FOR THEIR DEAR FAMILY.


OH YES, YES. I TREAT THEM NO DIFFERENTLY THAN THE FAMILIES OF MY OWN TROOPS.
SO ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN MY COMMANDER'S ARMY CONTINUE TO RECEIVE A PORTION OF THEIR SALARIES AND ARE WELL PROTECTED?


THIS HERE IS COMANDER GUAN YU'S LETTER FOR YOU, SIR.


BUT IN ANY CASE, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?

I TOO, SHARE HIS DISAPPOINT-MENT AT THE RECENT TURN OF EVENTS.

YES, I SEE HIS POINT.

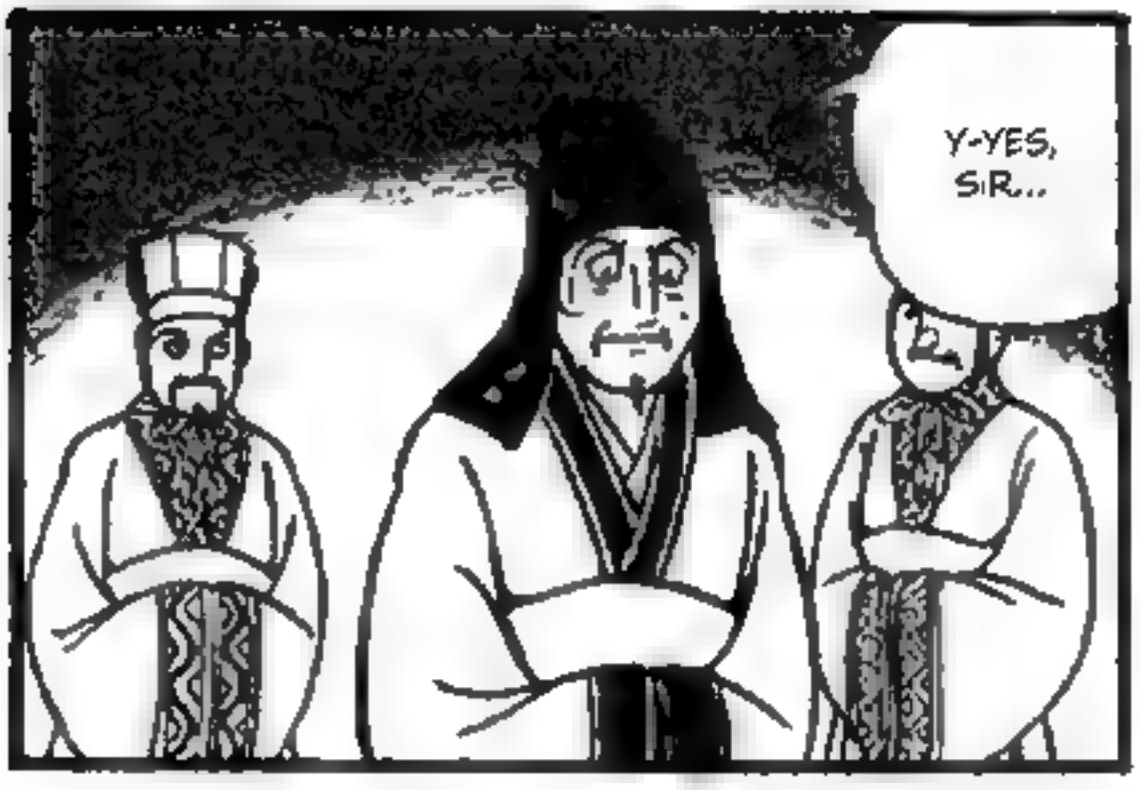
HMM...

SO YOU SAY YOU HAD NO CHOICE...?

IT IS TRUE THAT I SOUGHT CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH HIM IN THE PAST... BUT THAT WAS OUT OF MY PERSONAL DESIRE. THE CAPTURE OF JINGZHOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS A DIRECT ORDER FROM MY LORD WHICH I COULD DARE NOT DISOBEY.

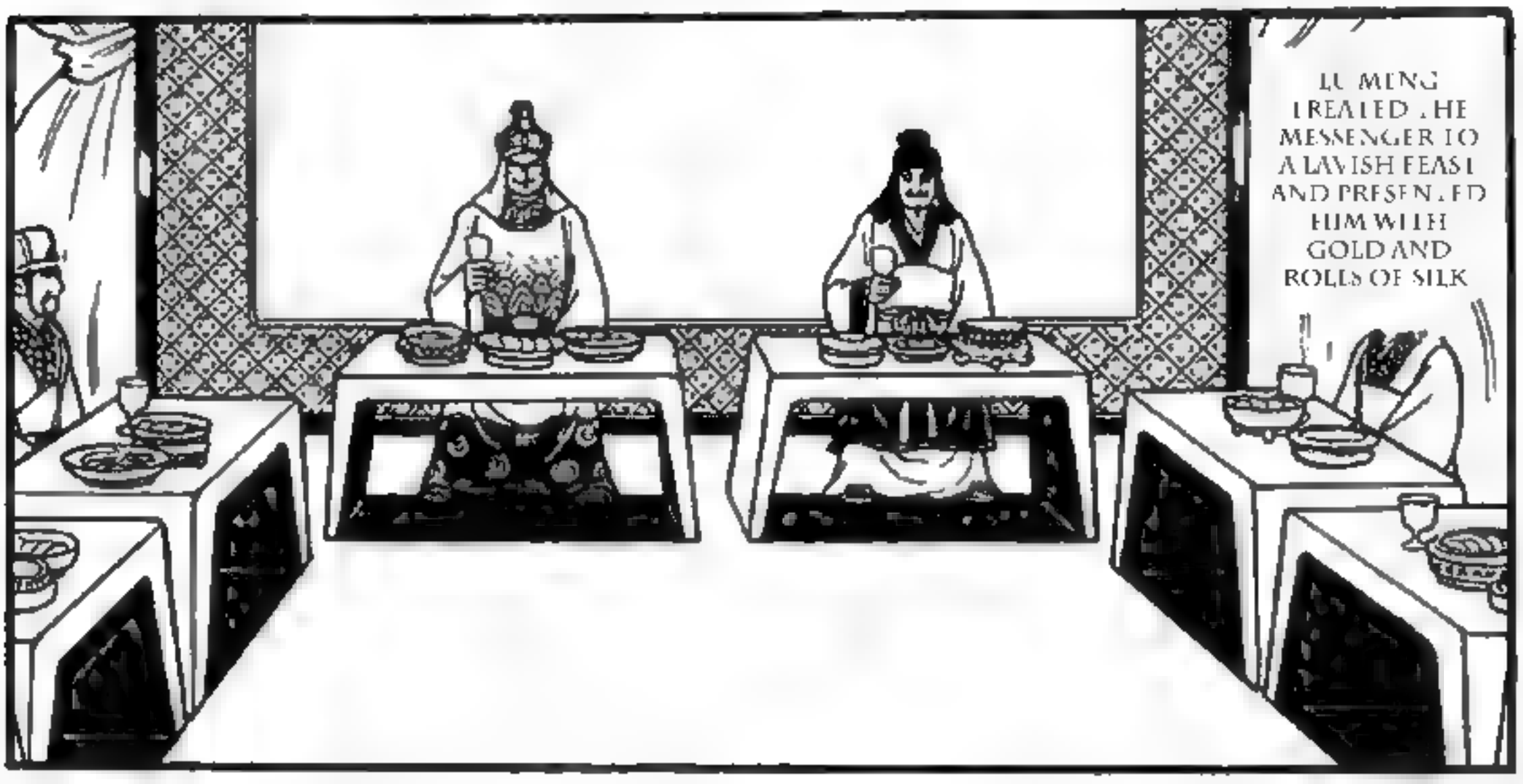
IN THE PAST, I HAD SWORN TO NEVER HARM ANOTHER FROM MY OWN VILLAGE, BUT THAT WAS MERELY A PERSONAL PROMISE I WISHED TO KEEP. I COULD NOT LET MY OWN PETTY DESIRES INTERFERE WITH THE MATTERS OF THE STATE.

RECENTLY, I HAD TO EXECUTE A MAN WHO HAILED FROM MY VERY OWN HOMETOWN FOR THE CRIME OF STEALING A SINGLE HAT FROM ONE OF JINGZHOU'S CIVILIANS.


Y-YES, SIR...

AND SUCH APPLIES TO THE CURRENT SITUATION AS WELL. PLEASE CONVEY TO YOUR COMMANDER MY DEEPEST GRIEVANCES THAT THINGS HAD TO TURN OUT THIS WAY.

WELL, NOW THAT THE DEPRESSING TALK IS OUT OF THE WAY, LET US CHEER OURSELVES UP WITH A DRINK!


LU MENG TREATED THE MESSENGER TO A LAVISH FEAST AND PRESENTED HIM WITH GOLD AND ROLLS OF SILK

PLEASE, SIR, TAKE TH S BACK TO MY SON!

AH, IT'S THE MESSENGER!

PLEASE TELL MY SON THAT HE NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT HIS FAMILY FOR LU MENG IS A MOST VIRTUOUS MAN WHO HAS MADE OUR LIVES EVEN SAFER AND MORE COMFORTABLE THAN BEFORE.

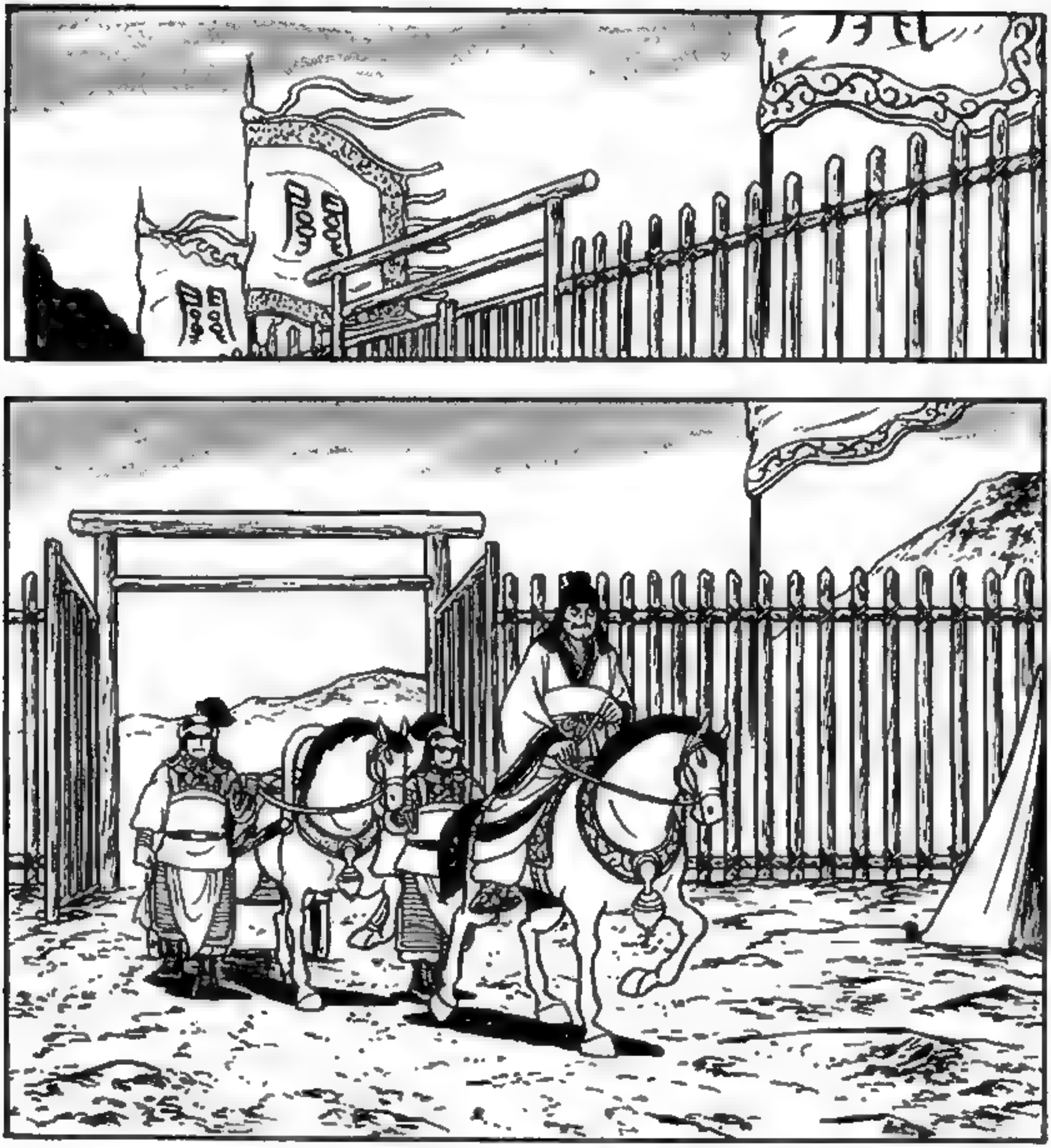
I'D BE DELIGHTED IF YOU COULD PASS THIS ONTO MY BOY..

AND THIS TO MY HUSBAND!

YES, HE GIVES MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SICK AND FOOD TO THE POOR AND STARVING TELL THE BOYS OF JINGZHOU TO WORRY MORE ABOUT THEIR OWN SAFETY, AS OURS ARE GUARANTEED BY LU MENG.

THE MESSENGER FELT MORE AND MORE COMFORT ABLE AS HE HEARD THE LAVISH PRAISE UTTERED BY JINGZHOU'S CIVILIANS

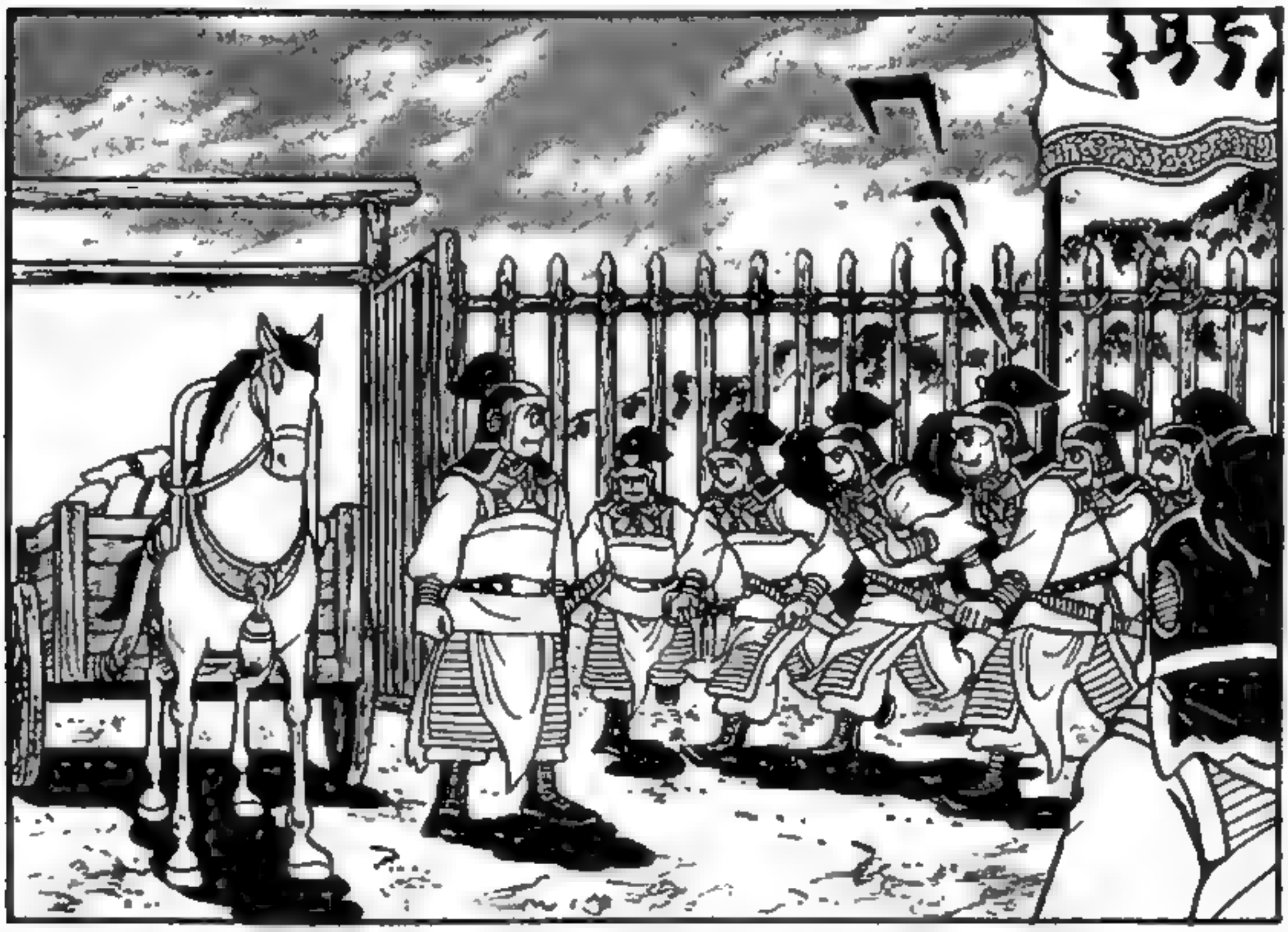
HE QUICKLY LEFT THE CITY AS IF ALMOST FLEEING FROM ENEMIES



YES, SIR.
PASS ON THE LETTERS TO THE SOLDIERS WHILE I GO REPORT TO THE COMMANDER.

LETTERS FROM OUR FOLKS BACK HOME!

GUYS, WE'VE GOT LETTERS!


三五七

THIS LU MENG FELLOW MUST BE A COMPASSIONATE LEADER.
IT SAYS MY SICK MOTHER WAS GIVEN FREE MEDICINE BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THEY'RE STILL RECEIVING A PORTION OF MY SALARY EVEN UNDER THE NEW GOVERNMENT?

YES, HE SIMPLY STATED HE WAS ONLY FOLLOWING HIS LORD'S ORDERS.

THAT'S ALL HE SAID?

OH, HE DID ADD THAT THE FAMILIES OF YOU AND YOUR SOLDIERS WERE IN SAFE HANDS, SO WE NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT THAT.

YES, SIR.

I SEE... YOU MAY EXCUSE YOURSELF.

BP

EVEN I DID NOT ANTICIPATE THIS... TRULY, HE'S A MOST FEARSOME FOE.

THIS WAS JUST ANOTHER PART OF LU MENG'S DEVIOUS PLAN... FIRST, HE FAKES SICKNESS AND USES LU XUN TO LOWER MY GUARD... NEXT, HE TURNS THE ENTIRE POPULACE OF JINGZHOU ON HIS SIDE SO AS TO SOLIDIFY HIS CONTROL...

BUT I CANNOT JUST SIT HERE FOREVER. JUST AS LU MENG WAS ORDERED BY HIS LORD TO TAKE JINGZHOU, I HAVE BEEN ORDERED BY MY LORD TO KEEP JINGZHOU UNDER SHU CONTROL. I MUST FIGHT LU MENG AT ALL COSTS.

WHAT IS IT?

SIR!

WHAT!?

ABOUT HALF OF OUR TROOPS HAVE DESERTED THE CAMPS LAST NIGHT!

AHHH!

BUT WE MUST TRY TO RECOVER JINGZHOU WITH OUR REMAINING FORCES.

WHAT DO WE DO, SIR?

NOTHING... THERE IS NO USE IN BRINGING BACK MEN WHO'VE THROWN AWAY THEIR WILL TO FIGHT.

YES, SIR!

GIVE THE SIGNAL TO BREAK CAMP!

FATHER, WERE WE NOT PLANNING TO WAIT FOR REINFORCEMENTS BEFORE ADVANCING?

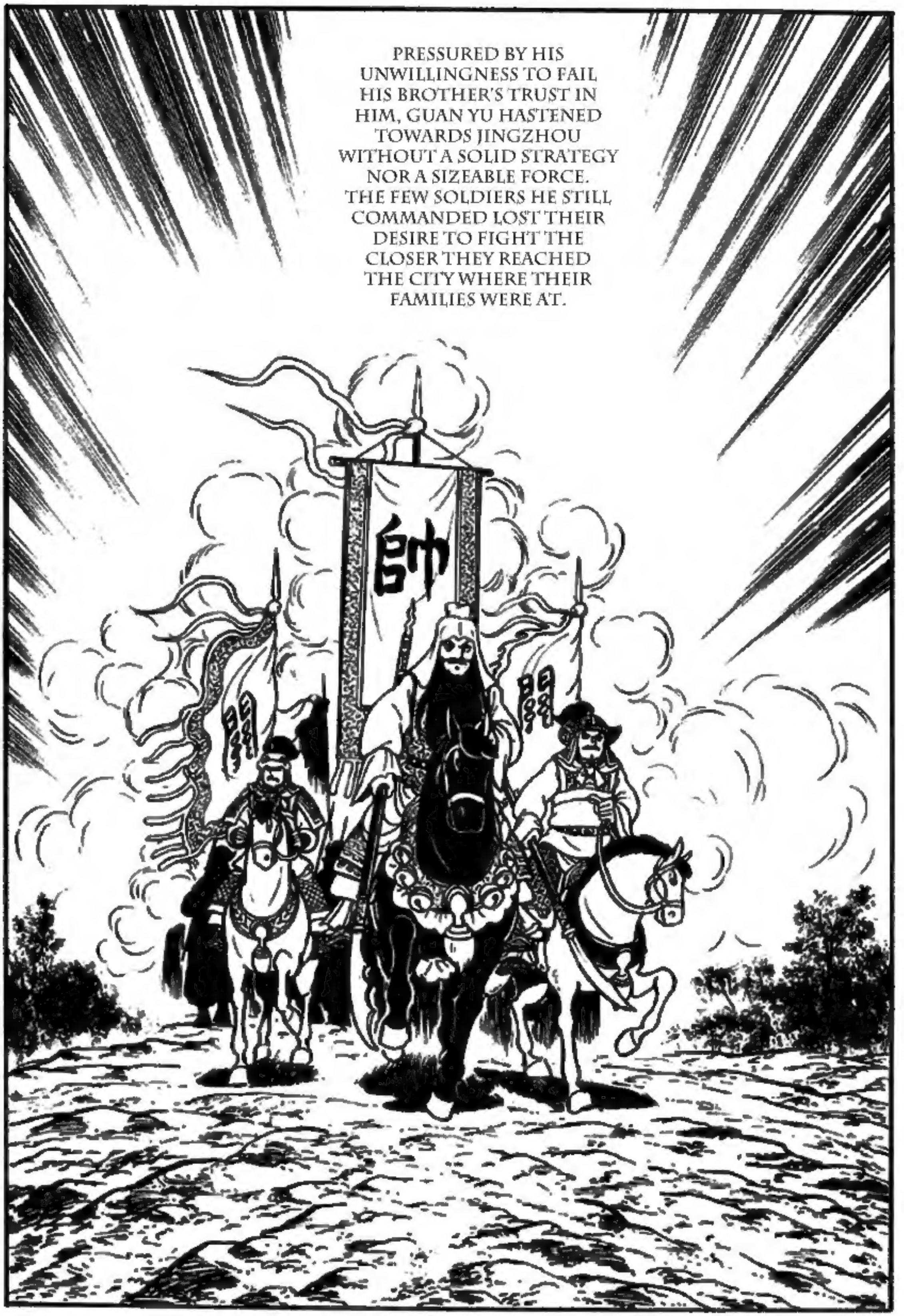
YES...
WE MUST BRING UP THE MORALE OF OUR TROOPS WITH A MINOR VICTORY OR TWO!

NO, WE CANNOT JUST SIT IDLY BY AS OUR FORCES CONTINUE TO DWINDLE FROM DESERTION. WE MUST AT LEAST TRY TO HARASS THE WU FORCES WHILE WE WAIT FOR REINFORCEMENTS TO ARRIVE.

THUS, GUAN YU WAS PRESSURED INTO MARCHING ONTO JINGZHOU.
帥
關

BUT THE EVER-CAPABLE LU MENG HAD BEEN ANTICIPATING AN ATTACK AND HAD ORDERED JIANG QIN, ZHOU TAI, AND HAN DANG TO MEET GUAN YU'S ARMY FROM THREE DIFFERENT APPROACHES.

THE THREE FORCES NOW WAITED FOR GUAN YU'S ARMY TO ARRIVE.
蔣
苻


PRESSURED BY HIS UNWILLINGNESS TO FAIL HIS BROTHER'S TRUST IN HIM, GUAN YU HASTENED TOWARDS JINGZHOU WITHOUT A SOLID STRATEGY NOR A SIZEABLE FORCE. THE FEW SOLDIERS HE STILL COMMANDED LOST THEIR DESIRE TO FIGHT THE CLOSER THEY REACHED THE CITY WHERE THEIR FAMILIES WERE AT.

TRANSLATED BY HOX

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電子書籍版

三国志

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横山 光輝

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